

# THE TIMES

## Russians call summit over threat of Olympic boycott

The Russians yesterday summoned their allies to discuss what to do if Western athletes boycott the Olympics. To leave Afghanistan would have disastrous ideological and strategic consequences (our

Moscow Correspondent writes) but a boycott by leading Western countries would be a national humiliation. The British Cabinet favours moving the games from Moscow if that is possible.

## Fear of national humiliation

From Michael Binyon  
Moscow, Jan 17

Party representatives from the Soviet Union's nine economic allies in Comecon, the Communist trading block, ended a two-day meeting in Moscow today to discuss the Olympics, amid growing calls in the West for a boycott of the games.

The meeting at the Soviet Communist Party headquarters was officially to discuss the preparations for the games and information work. But there seems little doubt that the Russians summoned their allies to discuss what to do should Western athletes fail to take part in the Olympics.

Although the transfer of the games from Moscow at this stage has been ruled out as virtually impossible by America and leading Western countries would be a national humiliation keenly felt by every citizen in the Soviet Union.

The matter would be even more serious if Saudi Arabia's withdrawal was followed by that of other Muslim countries.

It would rob the Olympics of any sporting significance, emasculating the competition and nullify all Soviet pre-emptive measures to use the games as a chance to advertise and justify the communist way of life.

The blow to Soviet pride

would embitter relations with the West for years to come, strengthen xenophobic nationalism and might make it doubtful whether the Russians would take part in sporting events in the West for some years.

Most Russians do not believe that anything can now stop the Olympics. But they are beginning to be worried. In the past two days, Tass has printed declarations from leading athletes and Olympic committees all over the world saying they still intend to come to Moscow.

On Sunday the popular newspaper *Soviet Sport* had a long article reassuring its readers that the world's sportsmen will be here in July.

Officially, the Russians have only learnt of doubts about the

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IOC rejects Thatcher move  
Rebels trip across border

games from a short paragraph in *Pravda* yesterday quoting Lord Killanin, the president of the International Olympic Committee, saying that only his committee could decide the venue.

But many people who listen regularly to foreign radio stations know that it is the Afghanistani affair which has cast a shadow over the games.

The Russians will not suffer much financially from a boycott. Moscow is insured with the International Olympic Committee, which would have to pay out a large sum if its members did not take part.

Contracts with Western companies could still be enforced, and television rights have mainly been paid.

In any case, almost three quarters of the colossal capital construction costs—some 230 million rubles (about £164m) according to Pravda yesterday quoting the Soviet organising committee—are expenditures on new buildings, roads, sports complexes and tourist facilities which will remain after the games.

But many of the 300,000 foreign visitors expected for the games would not come if Western teams pulled out. Their hard currency was to have covered the costs of equipment the Russians have imported from the West.

A successful staging of the Olympic Games would allow the regime and the party to bask in national pride would quell many of the grumbles and complaints about shortages and limitations that would seem to justify the tough measures already taken to quash dissent and remove undesirable factors from the view of visitors.

Moscow has been preparing for the biggest influx of visitors since the Napoleonic invasion with almost military thorough-

ness. Armies of builders have been mobilized cohorts of guides and interpreters are being trained, brigades of cleaners, painters and decorators are working round the clock to transform this city of eight million people into a showplace for the communist way of life.

A boycott would certainly lead to heated arguments within the Politburo, whose outcome might affect the post-Brezhnev leadership struggle. Depending on how widespread the boycott was, it could lead to a reassessment of relations with America, Western Europe or the Muslim world.

What is difficult to predict is whether it would give Soviet troops out of Afghanistan. It would seem unlikely. Mr Brezhnev himself admitted that the decision to go into Afghanistan was a hard one.

The Russians clearly saw some of the risks. But to go back now on the decision would have disastrous ideological and strategic consequences in Soviet eyes. And for the Russians no cost is too high to protect their ideology and their security.

The Soviet leadership knows that Western countries cannot enforce a boycott. They know that athletes would stay away and public opinion accepts the wrecking of the Olympics only if the political atmosphere remains as tense as it is now or gets worse.

It is, therefore, in the Soviet interest to remain as cool as possible in the face of such threats, not to take counter-measures in reply to those announced by President Carter, and to carry on with the preparations.

Moscow may do its best to appear conciliatory and persuade the West that "Afghanistan need not be a barrier to further political discussion. And with a few helpful gestures, if all goes well, official Western support for a boycott will have faded away in five months.

Our senior minister even went a new touch of optimism. It was observed that more money, which the Government insists is not being offered beyond the present cash limit of £430m next year, was not the only possible element of compromise.

Without venturing into detail, the minister believed that other elements of the dispute could be amenable to what was called adjustment, or rearrangement in the negotiations.

One source agreed that, if the Prime Minister saw a chance of settling the strike quickly, she would take it.

The idea in agreeing to such a requested meeting the Government was shifting its policy was resisted elsewhere in Whitehall.

Mrs Thatcher told her back-benchers before Christmas that there would be no beer and sandwiches at No 10, and she

last night was confirmed that the Cabinet is pressing other Western countries to come to a joint decision on providing finance so that the games can be staged in other venues.

Asked by Mr William Hamilton, Labour MP for Central Fife, whether she would refuse permission for the Duke of Edinburgh to go to Moscow if the venue could not be changed, she said she was not prepared to give undertakings at the moment.

"I have indicated the view we take," she said. "If we are not able to succeed in that view, other matters will arise and decisions will have to be taken at the time."

Mr Terence Higgins, Conservative MP for Worthing, who was a member of the 1948 and 1952 British Olympic athletics teams, said that a government appeal would have a damaging effect if it were rejected by the sporting bodies concerned.

He thought there should be full consultation before any definite line on the question of boycotting the games. The Government should take into account the athletes.

Parliamentary report, page 6

## Royal Navy switches task force

By Henry Stanhope  
Defence Correspondent

A Royal Navy task group of three frigates and two Royal Fleet Auxiliary supply ships which left Devonport on Monday for the Caribbean and North America, has been switched to the Mediterranean at short notice, it was learnt last night.

It is understood that the presence of the ships in the Mediterranean will increase the possible options for the Government in the light of the present crisis in Afghanistan and Iran.

While there are no plans to deploy the ships in the Indian Ocean, the force will be conveniently placed to implement any policy which Lord Carrington may present to Mrs Thatcher on his return from his tour of the troubled region.

In addition, the assault ship Intrepid, which has junior officers under training from the Royal Naval College, Dartmouth, on board, has been diverted from the Atlantic to the Mediterranean.

The Intrepid, 12,120 tons, has eight landing craft and facilities for eight Wessex helicopters.

The frigate squadron, whose ships include Cleopatra, Amazon and Avenger, will arrive in Gibraltar this afternoon and will then sail into the Mediterranean for exercises with the United States.

## Cabinet in favour of change in venue

By George Clark  
Political Correspondent

Mrs Margaret Thatcher told the Commons that the Cabinet was in favour of moving the Olympic Games from Moscow to some other place, if that were possible.

"No one can do it alone," she said. "We believe we should try to do it by concerted action with our allies and make an approach to the International Olympic Committee in whose care the decision would lie."

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## Scarmen warning on entry rules

Some women settled in the United Kingdom would be less well placed in regard to their family life than others under the Government's proposed new immigration rules, Lord Scarmen told a Commons select committee. Certain provisions could offend articles of the European Convention on Human Rights

Judges 'bewildered'

The recent decision by Lord Soames, the Governor of Southern Rhodesia, to commute the death sentences on 11 convicted African murderers is causing some consternation in legal and political circles. The country's judges, said Mr Justice MacDonald, were "bewildered".

EEC oil tax plan

The EEC is considering a proposal to tax oil imports into Europe as a means of election victory.

Classified advertisements: Appointments

pages 12, 23; Car Buyers' Guide, 24;

Personal, 24, 26; Property, 24

## Underhill call to NEC on 'Militants'

Members of the Labour Party's National Executive Committee should make a conscientious attempt to inform constituents of the activities of the "Militant" group, Lord Underhill said. The group's two leaders, Mr Peter Taffe and Mr Ted Grant, in an interview said allegations that they sought to wreck the party were nonsense.

Prisoner says: A prisoner who was kept in solitary confinement for 180 days at Wakefield jail is to sue the Home Office.

Chile: Mr Peter Shore, Shadow spokesman on foreign affairs, leads protest against Britain's decision to exchange ambassadors

Canada: Mr Trudeau kept out of spotlight as Liberals run safe campaign in expectation of election victory

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## Gold closes at record \$802 in New York

Gold continued to surge on the world's bullion markets yesterday, closing at \$802 an ounce in New York last night. At one point the metal touched the \$820 an ounce level. In London gold closed at \$760 an ounce—a record—after shipping back by \$25 an ounce at the morning fix from the previous night's level of \$755.

Mortgage gloom

Mortgage interest rates are unlikely to fall this year even if there is a general decline in interest rates, the Building Societies' Association says in a report.

The report on mortgage finance in 1980 says the societies should meet future demand for home loans if their rates for investors and borrowers remain competitive.

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## Three die in Belfast train bomb attack

By Christopher Thomas  
Belfast

Three people died and at least two others were seriously injured in a rush-hour bomb attack on a packed commuter train on the outskirts of Belfast last night. Attempts to bomb two other trains in the province failed earlier yesterday.

The attack on the Lisburn to Belfast commuter train, at Dunmurry, was one of the most callous attacks against civilians. No warning was issued.

As the three-carriage train shuddered to a halt with the centre carriage ablaze, about 30 passengers leapt to the tracks and climbed the bank to safety. Mr Humphrey Atkins, Secretary of State for Northern Ireland, described the attack as "incomprehensible".

It is rare for the Provisional IRA to place bombs without warning in places where large numbers of civilians are gathered, but the raid must raise grave fears.

Bombs were placed on two trains on the Carrickfergus to Belfast line but both were burst out of the windows by passengers and exploded harmlessly.

Rescue teams worked in bitter cold to reach the dead and injured at Dunmurry. One man with serious burns was discovered wandering off by himself in a severe state of shock. A helicopter with a powerful searchlight hovered over the scene.

Three bombs destroyed a large store in Dungannon last night. In Belfast, to Fermanagh, a man planted a bomb outside the Carlton Hotel and shouted a warning before escaping. Ten minutes later the bomb exploded and the hotel was destroyed by fire.



The fifth floor of the Mount Royal Hotel after the first bomb exploded at breakfast time.

## Arab killed in West End hotel bomb blasts

By Stewart Tindall

Hundreds of guests fled from a central London hotel yesterday after a bomb ripped through the fifth floor, leaving an Arab dead and another man injured.

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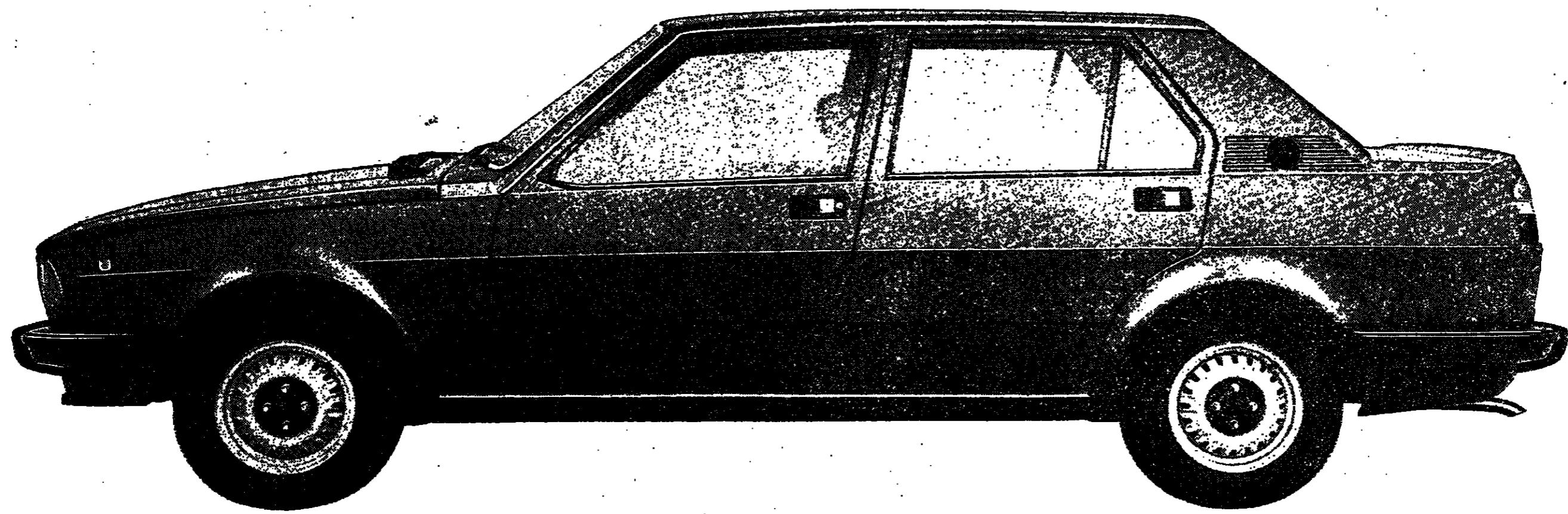
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# Once again, a Giulietta has changed the shape of Europe.



Like its famous predecessor in the 1950s, our new Giulietta sets entirely fresh standards of speed, economy, comfort and style. Its "flying wedge" shape creates minimum drag, yet offers legstretching comfort for up to five.

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*Alfa Romeo*

yet returns 40.4 mpg at a constant 56 mph and an outstanding 29.7 mpg at a constant 75 mph.\*\* The optional 1.8 litre engine gives better acceleration and a higher top speed, yet uses only slightly more fuel in the process. And, like all Alfas, our Giulietta comes complete with AlfaPlus, one of the most comprehensive aftercare packages ever offered.

\*Motor. \*\*Manufacturers figures.

\*\*Official Government figures. Giulietta 1.6: Urban cycle 26.2mpg (10.8L/100km). Constant 56mph (90km/h) 40.4mpg (7.0L/100km). Constant 75mph (120km/h) 29.7mpg (9.5L/100km). Giulietta 1.6 £5100, Giulietta 1.8 £5400. Both prices are correct at time of going to press.

Alfa Romeo Customer Information, Freepost T1, London UB6 9BR, 01-575 5035. See Yellow Pages for your nearest Alfa dealer.

## HOME NEWS

## New immigration rules breach Convention, Lord Scarman says

By Our Home Affairs Correspondent

Certain of the Government's proposed new immigration rules could be said to offend article of the European Convention on Human Rights, Lord Scarman told members of the Home Affairs Select Committee of the House of Commons yesterday.

One might accept as legitimate, he said, that the purpose of the policy was to restrict primary immigration. But the individual effect of that policy if carried out would be that some women settled in the United Kingdom would be less well placed in regard to their family life than others.

That was discrimination and could be said prima facie to offend Article 14. The trouble, he said, stated there was to be no discrimination on a whole number of grounds, such as sex, race, colour or religion.

Lord Scarman was giving evidence to the select committee's subcommittee on race relations and immigration. He told MPs he would have thought that the risk that would be run by the Government when rules came into force was that the ends did not justify those means and those means discriminated against certain women settled in the United Kingdom.

When one saw the nature of the prohibition imposed on certain women in regard to their husbands and their fiancées it was very difficult to explain that, save in the terms of the policy to control primary immigration.

"Then one says, is it neces-

sary to impose those means to that policy? The answer that the court would be likely to give, to my mind, would be: No, it is not."

Lord Scarman referred to the Government's proposed restrictions that could be imposed if parties to the marriage had not met. Why it should be thought that provision added anything to the policy of controlling primary immigration he did not know.

"It seems to me to be an attack on the habits and social customs of people who have come to this country and are living in accord with the customs in which they were brought up."

He described proposals about as pair girls as "a nasty little provision".

Mr Anthony Lester, QC, told the subcommittee that the official estimate was that the effect of the Government's proposals would be to reduce recent levels of immigration by about 3,000 or 4,000 a year.

In his evidence he told MPs: "The Government's proposals will, however, strike at those fundamental principles of our constitution which are supposed to ensure legal equality and freedom under the law.

"If I am right in my views about the incompatibility of these proposals with the rights and freedoms guaranteed by the Convention, then one further effect of these proposals will be a series of international decisions and judgments which will tarnish our national reputation among the free democracies of the world."

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## Breakaway Unionist forms new party

From Christopher Thomas

Belfast

Deep divisions among Northern Ireland's "loyalist" leaders were sharply emphasized yesterday with the launching of a new Unionist party under the leadership of Mr James Killefied, Independent MP for Down, North.

Mr Killefied, who resigned from the Official Unionists about a year ago in an acrimonious atmosphere resulting from long-standing differences with the party leadership, launched a strong attack on his former colleagues. He also had harsh words for the Democratic Unionists.

His Ulster Progressive Party has started without proper premises and only a tiny membership, but has ambitious plans for fighting the local elections.

The former leader of the Official Unionists was not sufficiently familiar enough with the Unionist IRA: restoration of a devolved government and parliament.

He also stands for proportional representation and the introduction of a Bill of Rights. In essence, however, nothing was said yesterday that marked it out as significantly different from the other Unionist groups on the fundamental issues dividing Ulster.

In a reference to the possible birth of an independent Ulster, Mr Killefied said: "We must be prepared in case Ulster is ever betrayed by the English politicians and English civil servants and forced out of the United Kingdom. Then, and only in that eventuality, we must be able, confidentially, as one community, to stand alone."

He was critical of the Official Unionists for boycotting the constitutional conference, which had allowed the Rev Ian Paisley to speak as though he represented all Unionists.

The party would fight to create an Ulster identity, so that people would regard themselves as Ulster people rather than as supporters of Catholics. He was against religious segregation in schools and teacher-training colleges. "Let people hang on to their religious, cultural and political differences so long as the intention is to see who can contribute most to the good of the community and its standing in the world."

Mr Callaghan asked whether Mrs Thatcher would now raise pensions, but Mrs Thatcher responded that pensions had, in fact, risen by more than just the increase in prices.

Mr Callaghan accused the Prime Minister of either misunderstanding or giving a "damn bad answer". The Northern pension increase had been based on 17.5 per cent for earnings increases, plus the 2 per cent shortfall from the previous year which Mrs Thatcher had promised during question time in the Commons yesterday.

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## HOME NEWS

## Nuclear power delay 'would mean loss of essential energy'

By Pearce Wright  
Science Editor

An essential source of energy supply would be lost if the development of nuclear power was subjected to continued interruption and undue delay, it is believed by 14 eminent politicians, economists and scientists who are signatories to a report published yesterday.

The document, issued jointly by the Royal Institute of International Affairs, London, and the Rockefeller Foundation, New York, says: "The question is not whether the civil use of nuclear energy entails risks. It does."

Every stage of the fuel cycle, from uranium mining to waste disposal, carries risks to those who engage in it and to the community at large."

The report says that the questions to be answered differ from those of energy connected with the supply of energy such as mining, transporting and burning coal, carrying liquid gas, establishing large hydroelectric dams or constructing large solar power installations.

For example, are nuclear facilities designed and operated with due regard for the public interest? Do national institutions provide adequate information about nuclear and other risks and the means of containing them?

Can nuclear risks and the risks of providing energy by other means be assessed accurately enough to compare them fairly with each other? How should nuclear risks be weighed against the alternative risks associated with the limits of future energy supply if nuclear power was not available?

Accusations that nuclear power leads necessarily toward authoritarian state control are regarded as difficult allegations to answer. But the authors of the report of the International Consultative Group on Nuclear Energy say that it must be shown in practice that the

central controls needed to protect the public interest can be combined with responsiveness and accountability.

Since uranium, like petroleum, is a finite source, ways of using uranium more efficiently must be developed without delay. That includes making better use of nuclear fuels in existing types of reactors and of demonstrating the longer-term feasibility of fast breeder reactors.

But that depends on striking a "bargain of confidence" over nuclear power that the signatories of this report believe is missing in many of the countries of the industrialized world.

One of the anxieties uppermost in their view, is the potential proliferation of weapons from expansion of nuclear power. They believe that can be contained and that the procedures should be made clear for public satisfaction.

Another side to that coin is considered among countries which look to nuclear power as an energy source, but which remain to be convinced that the super powers controlling the long-term access to equipment, services and materials.

Waste storage study: Four new areas have been chosen by the Government for study as possible places for underground storage of long-lived nuclear waste.

There are three areas in England and one in Wales: central and north-west Somerset; south-east Hereford and Worcester; and north Gloucestershire and south Nottinghamshire; and south Gwynedd and north-west Powys.

It is expected that it will take 10 years to establish the most suitable sites for waste disposal.

Experts "horrified": Experts at the National Centre for Alternative Technology at Machynlleth, mid-Wales, said yesterday that they were "horrified" at suggestions that nuclear waste should be dumped on their doorstep.

Mr Jack Ashley, Labour MP for Stoke-on-Trent, South, told

By Pat Healy  
Social Services Correspondent

Disabled people and their supporters were urged yesterday to march in the streets, on Parliament and to 10 Downing Street to fight for the full implementation of the now threatened Chronically Sick and Disabled Persons Act, passed with all-party support ten years ago.

Mr Jack Ashley, Labour MP for Stoke-on-Trent, South, told



The Duke and Duchess of Westminster with their first child, Lady Tamara Katharina Grosvenor, at Eaton Hall, Chester.

## Disabled urged to stage street protests against cuts

By Pat Healy  
Social Services Correspondent

A conference in London that it was time to mobilize to stop government and local authorities cutting services for disabled people.

The conference was called by disability and poverty bodies who are concerned that the Act will be weakened by the cuts and attempts by the Association of County Councils to persuade the Government to reduce it from a mandatory to a permissive piece of legislation.

Mr Ashley pointed out that

## Prisoner sues Home Office over control unit

By Annabel Ferriman

The Home Office is to be sued in the High Court by a prisoner who is claiming that his detention in a "central unit" at Wakefield prison in 1974 was unlawful.

Mr Michael Williams is alleging that the unit's regime, under which prisoners were kept in solitary confinement for 90 days at a time, was illegal under rule 43 of the Prison Rules, 1964. The rule lays down that a prisoner in solitary confinement must have his position reviewed every month.

Mr Williams is also claiming that his detention in the unit for 180 days was unlawful because he had not been accused of any specified disciplinary offence and had not been given any chance to appeal against his detention.

He is suing for exemplary damages for false imprisonment and trespass to the person, claiming that he suffered mental stress, anxiety, fear, unhappiness, damage and loss.

The control units, introduced at Wakefield prison in 1974, were abolished less than a year later after an outcry from civil libertarians, the Howard League for Penal Reform and the National Association for the Care and Resettlement of Offenders.

According to a confidential memorandum sent from the Home Office to prison governors which was published in 1975, they were to be used as behaviour modification experiments in which the prisoner would go into a specially designed unit and, isolated from other prisoners, start a regime

in two stages. Each stage would last 90 days.

If at any time the prisoner failed to show the required behavioural changes, he would start again at the beginning of stage one. The Association of Prison Governors asked the May committee on prisons to re-establish the units.

The case of Mr Williams, who is still in prison in Maidstone, is due to be heard on February 23. Yesterday the National Council for Civil Liberties appealed to a judge in Chambers for disclosure of certain Home Office documents.

Mr William Whitelaw, the Home Secretary, is claiming that they are covered by ministerial privilege. The Judge's decision was reserved.

Miss Harriet Harman, the council's legal officer, said: "The case is important because if it succeeds it will establish that prison rules are enforceable by law.

In the United States and Canada there is now a well-established principle that what goes on in prisons is subject to the authority of the courts.

Two other prisoners, Mr Michael McMullen and Mr John Macmillan, are in control units at Wakefield prison, and are also suing the Home Office.

A date is expected soon for the case of the Commission for Racial Equality against the Home Office. The commission wants to conduct a formal investigation into the Home Office immigration procedures and is going to court to establish its right to do so.

## Shark used as rates cheque

By James Sullivan, a Cornish fishmonger, yesterday paid his rates with a cheque written on the belly of an 8ft 350 lb shark because his local council had refused permission for a fish and chip counter at his shop.

After close examination by staff at Caradon District Council's office in Liskeard, the shark was taken by council van to the Midland Bank, where the £227.71 amount due was credited to the council's account.

## Atomic leak found by 'psychic' woman

A housewife who claims to be psychic is being offered the freedom of Hinkley Point nuclear power station in Somerset for tests for radiation leaks after impressing engineers with her powers.

Last year Mrs Phyllis White, of Burnham-on-Sea, said there was a radiation leak at the power station near her home months before its discovery was announced. Radioactive waste water leaked on to the beach at the nuclear plant at Easter through cracks in an underground drain. Mrs White discovered the leak with a water divining device.

"My psychic powers told me there was a leak of radioactive water somewhere on the plant," she said. "I was proved right in a few months. When I reported it to the nuclear engineers they invited me to the plant to check the pipes for other faults but I was too afraid of getting an overdose of radiation."

"I did offer to check the plans of the power station using dowsing techniques at my home, but the engineers refused to cooperate."

Mrs White, aged 48, who did research in high altitude cosmic radiation for six years at Bristol University, said she had detected the leak with a copper ball on the end of a telescope.

"About a month after I informed the local council and the power station they wrote back confirming there had been a leak of radioactive waste on to the beach."

She is also convinced that radiation has been leaking from the nuclear plant's cooling system since cracks were discovered in September.

The health physicist at Hinkley Point, Mr Philip Carter, confirmed that there had been a leak of low-level waste water from the plant last Easter.

"This water comes from handwashing laundry and cleaning. We are allowed to discharge it into the sea once the radiation level has been monitored by outside independent bodies."

## Parents of dead boys discharged

From Our Correspondent

The parents of three brothers who died in a fire deliberately started at their home were given conditional discharge by Mr F. Lox, the Hull stipendiary magistrate, yesterday for criminal damage during a Christmas Eve confrontation with neighbours.

Thomas and Edith Hastie, both aged 34, now living at an undisclosed address in Hull, admitted breaking windows and doing £45-£50 of damage.

The court was told that the couple returned to their former neighbourhood in Selby Street, Hull, on Christmas Eve and accused people of causing the deaths of their sons, aged 15, 12, and eight.

Mr Michael Rosenberg, for the defence, said Mr and Mrs Hastie had visited their surviving son, aged nine, who was still in hospital, and Mrs Hastie insisted on confronting their former neighbours. She was upset, he said, and her emotions had got out of control.

She still believed that someone living in Selby Street caused the deaths of her children.

She had seven children, of whom she was passionately proud and over-protective.

The magistrate said he was taking the exceptional course of a conditional discharge because of the circumstances, but the Hasties would have to pay compensation and fines of £1 each for failing to surrender to their bail for previous hearing.

Mrs Hastie was also fined a nominal £1 on each of two conditional discharges she was given last August for criminal damage.

### Miner killed

Mr Gerald Forbes, aged 19, a miner, of Grange Road, Cheadle, was killed by a mine car in Lea Hall colliery, Rugeley, Staffordshire, yesterday. The coal board is investigating the accident.

The magistrate said he was taking the exceptional course of a conditional discharge because of the circumstances, but the Hasties would have to pay compensation and fines of £1 each for failing to surrender to their bail for previous hearing.

In both cases, which are the first challenges to the council's new policy, applicants sought injunction in the High Court to compel the council to provide accommodation for them until the hearing of the cases.

One of the applications, in respect of a man's wife and three children, who arrived from Cyprus, was refused. He disputes the council's contention that the Act does not apply to him.

The other application, in respect of a man's wife and three children, who arrived from Cyprus, was refused. He disputes the council's contention that the Act does not apply to him.

## Drug safety testing 'could halt research'

By John Roper  
Health Services Correspondent

A warning that research to produce new medicines might cease if the trend towards ever more tests before their use was not stopped was given yesterday by Mr David Smart, president of the Association of the British Pharmaceutical Industry.

In spite of the exhaustive testing programmes that were, quite properly, the accepted rule, there could be no such thing as absolute safety in modern medicines, which were highly active and effective compounds, he said.

The time had come to recognize that no additional expenditure of time or money would ever guarantee total freedom from hazard.

Mr Smart, speaking at a London press conference marking the opening of the celebration of the fifteenth anniversary of the association, said there was a danger that the industry could be forced into a position where it would be impossible to recover the costs of tests which sought to establish the unattainable.

In Britain it could take up to 15 years and about £25m before a new drug could be marketed. At the end, when all the data were ready, there could be six months when nothing happened before clinical trials could begin.

In the United States they suffered from the so-called

### Schoolboy tricked banks

From Our Correspondent

A schoolboy aged 15 tricked banks into paying him more than £3,500 for worthless notes, it was alleged at Brighton Juvenile Court yesterday.

Police Sergeant John Ainsley said the boy found a pile of Brazilian bank notes in the attic of his home. At first he used them as "toy money" to play cards with his father.

Then he visited banks in Sussex, Surrey and Kent, and exchanged them for pounds.

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By Our Home Affairs Correspondent

Two families who arrived at Heathrow Airport and were refused housing accommodation by Hillingdon Council, have taken the council to court in an attempt to have the decision reversed.

Recently, after an acrimonious exchange with the Commission for Racial Equality, the council decided that the Housing (Homeless Persons) Act does not give rights to accommodation to certain of the arrivals from overseas.

In both cases, which are the first challenges to the council's new policy, applicants sought injunction in the High Court to compel the council to provide accommodation for them until the hearing of the cases.

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The council has told the family that it will keep the bed and breakfast accommodation available for 14 days so as to enable them to find an alternative home.

In the second case, which concerns an Ethiopian widow of a British citizen and her son, an injunction was granted. The council says it does not suggest that homelessness in this case was self-induced. Had the woman not been an overseas arrival with no previous connection with this country, the council would have been obliged to rehouse her.

She and her son were placed in bed and breakfast accommo-

We'd better be better.  
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## WEST EUROPE

## EEC proposal to tax imports of oil could benefit Britain

From Michael Hornsby  
Brussels, Jan 17  
A tax on oil imports into the EEC is being considered by European Commission experts as a way of increasing Community budget revenue, reducing dependence on external oil supplies and boosting investment in indigenous energy resources.

If the tax were introduced—and it is only one of several ideas under discussion—it could improve Britain's budgetary position markedly over a number of years, but it is not seen here as an answer to Britain's immediate budget problem.

The idea is being pushed by Herr Guido Brunner, the EEC Energy Commissioner, who argues that in the present climate of uncertainty about oil supplies it is vital that the EEC should develop a more united energy policy.

There are serious worries, however, about the effect of an oil import tax on economic growth in the EEC. Some commissioners also prefer the idea of a tax on internal energy consumption, which would not help Britain.

The revenue derived from such schemes would be intended primarily for investment in developing energy resources in countries like Italy, Denmark and Ireland, which are particularly dependent on external supplies. But spending on the development of the coal industry could be of benefit to Britain.

## Jenkins visit to Belgrade will show EEC concern

From Our Own Correspondent  
Brussels, Jan 17

In a gesture of support for Yugoslavia, Mr Roy Jenkins, the President of the European Commission, is to visit Belgrade about the middle of next month. The planned visit reflects growing concern in the EEC about the ill health of President Tito and possible Soviet pressure on Yugoslavia if the 87-year-old leader should die.

The hope here is that a new trade agreement, offering the Yugoslavs much more generous access than at present to Community markets, will have been concluded in time for cere-

## King Alfonso's remains go home from Italy

From Our Own Correspondent  
Rome, Jan 17

The remains of Alfonso XIII, grandfather of the present King of Spain, were today removed from the Church of Santa Maria di Montserrat where they were placed when he died in Rome in 1941. They were taken to Civitavecchia and brought on board the frigate Asturias which then set off for Spain. The remains are to be placed in the Escorial, the royal palace outside Madrid.

The departure was marked by a Mass concelebrated by Cardinal Bertone and the rector of the church. This church serves the Spanish community in Rome and contains the tombs of two Spanish Popes.

Signor Tommaso Morlino, the Minister of Justice, represented the Italian Government and Signor Antonio Maccanico, the head of state. The Spanish delegation was led by the Count of Barcelona, son of Alfonso XIII.

# In the red corner Herbert Marcuse. In the blue corner Talcott Parsons.

Swedish sociologist, Göran Therborn adds up the points contributed to Twentieth Century thought by the opposing theories of two of its most significant social thinkers who died last year.

Also in this week's  
Times Higher Education Supplement:

\*The role of the UN in an increasingly dangerous world.  
\*Chinese higher education since the Cultural Revolution.

\*The rise of the Tory intellectuals.  
\*Women's studies come of age.



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Every Friday.

## AFGHANISTAN/IRAN

**Herr Schmidt pledges support for US but will see Mr Brezhnev**

From Patricia Clough

Bonn, Jan 17

Herr Helmut Schmidt, the Chancellor, today pledged West Germany's support for United States sanctions against Iran and the Soviet Union as an "absolutely reliable ally and friend".

At the same time he promised that the Government would step up its efforts for peace in Europe and for détente and would persist in efforts for arms reduction and control.

He said he still intended to meet President Brezhnev and Herr Erich Honecker, the East German leader, as planned over the next two or three months. "We must make it clear where we stand... To this purpose we must talk to each other."

West Germany will increase its already sizable aid to countries it considers threatened by the Afghanistan crisis, in particular Pakistan, India and Turkey. He recalled that government ministers were already involved in talks on cooperation with the Gulf states.

The Chancellor, who was making a formal statement to Parliament on the international situation and its domestic consequences, did not go into the question of West Germany's itself joining in sanctions against Iran and the Soviet Union. These matters which are being discussed with its Community and Nato partners, raise many problems for the Government.

Apart from West Germany's huge business interests and fears for the West German community in Iran, the Government has to consider the cost to its relations with the Eastern block.

The Chancellor's speech showed the Government's desire, despite temporarily conflicting interests, to remain true to the two fundamental principles of West German foreign policy: complete loyalty to the United States ("irreplaceable for our security") and to save and

Russian military machine, page 14  
Leading article, page 15



The deposed Shah of Iran at his refuge on Contadora Island, Panama, with Mr David Frost who interviewed him for the Yorkshire Television series beginning tonight.

**Russia accused of coveting Iran**

Tehran, Jan 17.—In the Persians and Arabs are also strongest Iranian attack so far on the Soviet intervention in Afghanistan. Mr Abolhassan Bani-Sadr, the Finance Minister, has accused Moscow of wanting to divide Iran and push on to the Indian Ocean.

His attack was part of a campaign speech published today by the official Pars news agency. Mr Bani-Sadr, a leading contender for the Presidency whose Afghan origins have disqualifed him under the terms of the constitution.

Mr Bani-Sadr, a member of the ruling Revolutionary Council added: "We must pave the way for the uprising of the deprived nations and change the political map of the world. In Islamic government, there is no discrimination".

In their opinion the Turks are a minority. The Baluchis,

He said is was not the time to remain silent on what he called the Soviet invasion of Afghanistan or on the depredations of the United States all over the world.—Reuter.

Court's deadline: The World Court at The Hague today set February 18 as the deadline for Iran to present its defence against the United States case concerning the occupation of the American embassy in Teheran.

The next hearing will involve the substance of American claims that Iran should be condemned for violating international law. The court said Iran could apply for an extension of the time limit.—Reuter.

**Lord Carrington plays down differences with India**From David Spanier  
Diplomatic Correspondent  
Delhi, Jan 17

Lord Carrington did his best today to put a good face on the sharp difference of opinion between Britain and Mrs Indira Gandhi's Government on the Soviet intervention in Afghanistan.

There was scope for "differences of perspective", but there was "no room for disagreement" on the dangers to the sub-continent, the Foreign Secretary admitted at the conclusion of his talk in Delhi tonight.

Britain and India both want to see Soviet troops out of Afghanistan", he said. "Neither of us has a ready-made prescription of the best way to achieve this."

The crux of the difference of opinion is that Britain believes in taking the strongest possible line in protest against the Soviet action, while the Indians could restrain to avoid making matters worse.

British officials were horrified by the outspoken and unqualified endorsement of the Soviet case made by the Indian representative at the United Nations.

Although India, mindful no doubt of the bad impression created among other non-aligned countries, abstained in the final vote there is no doubt that Mrs Gandhi herself stands very close to the Soviet line.

She refused to condemn the Soviet Union or say that Soviet aggression underlay the present

danger to the region, talking to reporters after her 45-minute conversation with Lord Carrington. And in speeches today, she indicated that the danger to India came from the United States rearming Pakistan.

"India does not support any foreign intervention anywhere", Mrs Gandhi said today, speaking in Hyderabad. "But in the case of Afghanistan the Revolutionary Council of that country had invited the Russians."

Asked later in the day if increased United States aid to Pakistan justified the Soviet intervention in Afghanistan, Mrs Gandhi somewhat qualified her support by saying: "I am not justifying it. We do not approve of it."

Mrs Gandhi is far from enamoured of the United States and Britain, which formerly criticized her leadership, and India is dependent on the Soviet Union for arms. If Pakistan ever raises the issue of Kashmir again, India wants Russian support.

Lord Carrington tried today to reassure Mr P. V. Narasimha Rao, the Indian Minister for External Affairs, that American help for Pakistan was a different thing, in the present context, from a threat to India. Britain itself is not an arms supplier to Pakistan.

The American arms credits, the Foreign Secretary added, at \$200m (£91m) over two years, are hardly of a size to suggest that Pakistan was any threat to India.

He denied foreign press reports that Washington had asked Bahrain to provide military bases.

Romanians rearm: Romania, which refused to sanction the Soviet intervention in Afghanistan, will strengthen its defences to face the tense situation.

At the beginning of next month, President Nicolae Ceausescu said today in a broadcast monitored in Vienna.

He told an audience in Bucharest that the country would re-equip its Army and step up training of workers' militia and para-military youth groups to defend national independence and sovereignty.

The call for new arms for the Romanian Army was all the more significant because the President has long opposed the international arms race and Warsaw Pact spending increases.—Reuter.

**Gulf minister fears new colonial era**

Bahrain, Jan 17.—The Soviet intervention in Afghanistan has opened a new colonial era, and Moscow's strategy is to get closer to the oil producing areas.

Shahki Muhammad bin Mubarak al-Khalifa, the Foreign Minister, said in an interview with the newspaper *Akhbar Al Khaleej*.

Defence of the area must be undertaken by the Gulf states themselves and they should unite their forces and coordinate their strategies, he said.

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Romanians rearm: Romania, which refused to sanction the Soviet intervention in Afghanistan, will strengthen its defences to face the tense situation.

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He told an audience in Bucharest that the country would re-equip its Army and step up training of workers' militia and para-military youth groups to defend national independence and sovereignty.

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At the

## OVERSEAS

# Mr Trudeau kept out of spotlight as Canadian Liberals run safe campaign in expectation of victory

From John Best  
Ottawa, Jan 17

Canada's Conservative Government, which held office for only six months before being toppled on a House of Commons confidence vote on December 13, is fighting an uphill battle to retain power in the general election on February 18.

Opinion polls have convinced most political observers that only a dramatic reversal in voter preferences between now and the end of the election can prevent the Liberals, led by Mr Pierre Trudeau, from being returned to office.

The Liberals are so convinced they have the election sewn up that they have Mr Trudeau, the former Prime Minister, conducting what amounts to a non-campaign. The strategy is to keep Mr Trudeau under a low profile, to avoid drawing him into the spotlight, and above all to minimize the chances of his making any disastrous mistakes.

Thus Mr Trudeau has been travelling across the country making set-piece, low-key speeches, doing his best to embellish the wide-held picture of Mr Joe Clark, the Prime Minister, as a weak, ineffectual leader, and generally steering clear of strong policy positions.

It is a clear-headed strategy, based to a considerable extent on the realization that, outside his native Quebec, Mr Trudeau is at best an uncertain asset. Intense voter antagonism towards him in English-speaking Canada contributed to the Liberal defeat in last May's election, which brought a minority Conservative Government to power, and the antipathy has far from dissipated.

The most telling demonstration of the Liberal approach came just a few days ago, when Mr Trudeau refused to take part in a nationally televised debate with Mr Clark and Mr

Ed Broadbent, leader of the moderately left-wing New Democratic Party.

Whether the Liberal strategy works may depend on how successful the Conservatives are in making English-speaking Canadians understand that the alternative to the reelection of a Conservative government is a return of Mr Trudeau.

This has to some extent been lost sight of in the welter of attacks on Mr Clark.

The Conservatives could also try to capitalize on the fact that Mr Trudeau would be, in a sense, a lame-duck Prime Minister. He has pledged that this will be his last election, whether he wins or loses. This means that Canadians are being asked to vote for a party without knowing who will be its leader two or three years from now.

Mr Trudeau has already announced his resignation from the leadership of the Liberal Party when the sudden fall of the Government induced him to reconsider, and fight one more election.

Mr Clark, for his part, is facing enormous difficulties in this campaign. Just 40 years old, he is considered by many to be too young to be Prime Minister, and for evidence they point to his reputation for indecisiveness and for policy inconsistencies, not to mention broken promises, while he was in office.

Among other things, he failed to deliver on electoral pledges to stimulate the economy through widespread tax cuts. The debacle over his promise to move the country's embassy in Israel from Tel Aviv to Jerusalem further undermined Conservative credibility.

Mr Clark is, however, an earnest and hard-working campaigner, not lacking in courage and tenacity.

The overriding issue in the campaign, apart from the personalities of the party

structure for Quebec. —UPI.

## Surprise legal decision may be aimed at KGB excesses

### Ukrainian dissidents sent to jail

By Peter Reddaway  
Amid reports reaching the West of a new series of arrests and trials, Soviet dissidents come information of a decision by the Soviet Supreme Court which is unprecedented in a political case.

In a move which may be aimed at the increasingly blatant tendency of the KGB to fabricate evidence and bludgeon witnesses, the court has announced a three-year sentence imposed last June on a dissident Rostov worker because of the many violations of legal procedure committed by the local authorities.

A new investigation has been ordered into the case of Mr Edward Kulikov, who nevertheless remains in jail.

Meanwhile, the "Ukraine Group to Assist the Implementation of the Helsinki Accords", which began to function in 1976, has been most heavily affected in the new wave of oppression.

Its leader, Alexander Berdnyk, a novelist and former member of the Writers' Union, has now been sentenced to nine years' imprisonment and exile. At other trials three members—Yuri Liron, Petro Sychko and Vasyl Sychko—have received three years each. And five other members—Mykola Horbal, Vintza Kalynichenko, Vasyl Strivitsky, Petro Razumny and Vasyl Lesiv—have been arrested.

Despite these developments, and a series of officially inspired physical assaults on other members who remain free, 15 new members have recently joined the group. It now has a total membership of about 30, two of whom, General Pyotr Grigorenko and Miss

Nina Strokara, have been forced to emigrate and act as representatives abroad.

Also recently sentenced was a long-standing Ukrainian dissident close to the group, Yury Badzo. Formerly a headmaster and a party member, he has had work since 1971 as a porter in a bread shop.

In 1977 his 1,400-page manuscript on the history and prospects of the Ukrainian nation disappeared in mysterious circumstances. A year later, 400 pages of the rewritten text were confiscated during a police search and labelled "nationalistic". Now they have brought him 12 years' imprisonment and exile for "anti-Soviet agitation".

In Moscow, the latest KGB targets have been a substantial literary-political seminar journal called "Searches" and an unofficial seminar on religious philosophy.

Other dissidents have been arrested in the Kuban, Stavropol and Vladimir regions; and, among many new Baptist cases, Anatoly Runov of Gorky region has been interned in a prison psychiatric hospital and four Kiev Baptists have received sentences of three, seven, 10 and 12 years on what they have consistently said are trumped-up charges.

Among the Pentecostals Bishop Nikolai Gorovoi, the leader of their emigration movement for the past four years, was arrested in the north Caucasus just before Christmas.

Against this background of increasing all-round oppression, the annulment of Mr Kulikov's sentence is all the more surprising.

Soon after this, on Christmas Day, seminar member Lev Regel was arrested. He is an authority on the history of

### Deserting Vietnam troops captured in Thailand

From Our Correspondent

Bangkok, Jan 17

Fifty-three nuclear bomb tests were conducted last year, five more than in 1978, the Swedish military observatory at Haga said in its annual report today.

The Soviet Union carried out 28 tests, one more than in 1978, and the United States 15 (five more). Of the remainder France had nine at its testing ground at Mururoa in the Pacific—more than ever before—and Britain one, using the American facilities in Nevada.

For the first time in the decade China exploded no bombs compared to three in 1978, the observatory said.

Since 1970 a total of 421 tests have been registered, of which 191 were Soviet, 154 American, 55 French, 15 Chinese, five British and one Indian.

Troops opened fire on striking banana plantation workers yesterday at the Atlantic coast port of Limon as fear of communist infiltration and the threat of strike paralysis gripped Costa Rica, long considered the "Switzerland of Latin America".

At least eight people were wounded when the Civil Guard responded with a barrage of stones and rounds of fire—deliberately aiming low at the strikers' legs, according to sector Juan Jose Echeverria, the Minister of the Interior.

"The decision to open fire was absolutely the right one, and we will do the same again if other strikers try to stir up trouble," said Señor Echeverria. The Costa Rican Confederation of Democratic Workers in turn threatened to launch a nationwide strike.

The shooting broke out just as some 5,000 rail workers, dockers, medical staff and other employees in Limon threatened a total work stoppage if the Government failed to settle the banana plantation strike. The Costa Rican Confederation of Democratic Workers in turn threatened to launch a nationwide strike.

As Costa Rica's only real Caribbean port, Limon is the exit and entry point for trade

with Europe and the main terminal for imported oil.

President Corazón Odió recently accused local communists of "playing Moscow's game." He had expelled two Soviet diplomats blaming them for a strike in Limon last summer.

Earlier this week the Costa Rican authorities announced the expulsion of "communist agitators"—three Cubans, a Bulgarian, a Yugoslav, and a citizen of El Salvador—and arrested 120 strikers.

Standard Fruit gave in to most of the workers' demands, but added conditions which the strikers found unacceptable.

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As Costa Rica's only real

Caribbean port, Limon is the exit and entry point for trade

### McCartney tour off and he goes back to jail

Tokyo, Jan 17.—Paul McCartney, the former Beatle, claimed the marijuana he smuggled to Japan was intended for his personal consumption, and that it was less toxic than alcohol, narcotics officials said.

It proposed to more than double the price of crude oil in Canada over a four-year period, and levy an immediate 18 per cent a gallon increase in the petrol excise tax. The Conservatives insist that such increases were necessary to promote conservation and move Canada towards energy self-sufficiency.

The Liberals and New Democrats oppose the excise tax increase, and would raise the now artificially-low price of crude oil in easier stages. Similarly, both opposition parties are against the Conservative plans to break up Petro-Canada, the state-owned oil company, and sell parts of it to the private sector.

In the area of social security, the Liberals have promised to boost old-age pension supplements, paid to the neediest pensioners, while the Conservatives pledge to sweeten a plan, introduced into the last Parliament but never passed, to grant home-owners an income tax credit for mortgage interest and property tax payments.

Quebec criticism: The Parti Québécois has been swift to denounce the policy document published last week by the Quebec Liberal Party in which it proposed greater provincial participation in the central Government with the creation of a new body, the Federal Council, and restriction on unilateral intrusion by the federal Government in provincial affairs.

Mr Roné Lévesque, the Premier of Quebec, called the document "a heaven-sent gift" for his party because the document recommends no special status for Quebec. —UPI.

### Mr Marcos ousts minister

Manila, Jan 17.—President Marcos of the Philippines, dismissed his rebellious Minister of Information today and challenged the political opposition to try to overthrow him by a coup.

He told a televised press conference that he had asked Mr Francisco Tatad to resign from the Ministry of Information, to go on leave and submit his resignation, accusing him of using the office to enrich himself.

Mr Marcos said he had ordered Mr Tatad to turn over all his functions to Mr Gregorio Nicanor, the director of the National Media Production Centre, who was named just before the press conference as acting Minister of Information.

Mr Tatad reported that he was ready to resign but denied the allegation of corruption.

Mr Tatad had caused a political storm by openly campaigning his home province of Catanduanes against Mr Marcos's ruling New Society Movement in the local elections to be held on January 30, the first since the declaration of martial law in 1972.

Mr Marcos also said he had reports that the Opposition was talking of a coup. "I would like them to try a coup," he said. —UPI.

### Turkish lawyer shot dead by attackers

Ankara, Jan 17.—The prosecutor, Arslan, in Tokat Province, was shot dead by unknown attackers last night and two students were murdered in Istanbul. Three bombs caused damage, also in Istanbul last night.

Sources said Mr İlhan Aktaş, the prosecutor, was shot several times in the back and died a short while later in a hospital.

Thirty-six people have died in Turkey's prolonged wave of political violence this year. More than 2,600 have been killed in the last two years. —Agence France-Presse.

### Bombay mass arrest

Bombay, Jan 17.—More than 1,500 people were arrested in Bombay last night in a drive against crime. Police said those detained included bootleggers, prostitutes and gamblers.

new species, the newly industrialized country, known as NIC, has been added to the vocabulary of the science and social progress. The world was once divided mainly by analysis of developed countries, like those of Western Europe and North America, and developing countries, like those of South America and much of Africa.

These two categories remain, but they have been joined by NICs. They are countries like Singapore, South Korea and Mexico, where industrial advance has been so fast that they threaten the much older manufacturing sectors of Europe and North America.

The NICs are the key to a new world economic order for food in the opinion of Mr Albert Simantov, director of food and agriculture for the Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development in Paris. The organization promotes the growth of world trade and of the economies of its member countries all of which are in the West.

The theory worked well in the years of empire, and still applies today. Some of the tea bought by British companies is graded, tasting and packed in Britain and then sold in tea-producing countries.

The flaw in the theory was that it did not permit developing countries to catch up with the developed. In its most primitive form it did not allow for the producers of rice to advance to the processing of their own rice pudding.

All is now changing, and a

"Should Edmond Maire be burnt?" the left-wing magazine *Le Nouvel Observateur* asked recently.

The lively, questing, non-conformist secretary-general of the leftist Confédération Française du Travail (CFDT) had just dropped another brick into the placid waters of conventional left-wing thought. It had caused enormous ripples of self-righteous indignation.

In an interview with a provincial newspaper he had said that under present circumstances no matter who was chosen as candidate of the Left, he would be defeated.

Naturally he was accused by the Communists of deliberately choosing failure and playing into the hands of the Right; and the Socialists said he was spreading despondency. Only one Socialist leader has the courage to say that M. Maire had only said out loud what almost everyone on the Left was thinking in secret—that so long as the Communists chose to withdraw into their political ghetto, there was no hope for the Left at the polls.

It is not the first time since 1974, when he took responsibility for the second largest trade union organization in France, that M. Maire has disconcerted left-wing trade unionists or politicians by his unconventional and provocative stand on the great issues of the moment. He was never very enthusiastic about the now defunct Common Programme of the Left. "Anticapitalism," he said at the time, "does not automatically produce socialism without a conscious mobilization of the workers for a socialist project."

In 1978, after the defeat of the Left in the parliamentary elections, he set in motion a "recentering" operation of his union, designed to reemphasize the frontier between political and labour action, which had become blurred.

He was naturally accused by the Communists of "social democratic regression", an ironical charge for a trade union leader branded as "leftist" in the past because he campaigned for such dangerous ideas as worker participation in management and democracy on the shop floor.

M. Maire, who is still only 49, does not fit into the accepted categories of French society, or head the conventions of French politics, left or right. His mind is always casting about for original recipes for old problems and doctrines, compounded with a sharp admixture of realism. He likes playing with new ideas, instead of keeping to well-trodden paths, but he knows when not to push them too far, even if his unruly militants do not.

I asked him why the CFDT was regarded by the overwhelming majority of employers as far more dangerous than its Communist rival.

Because we put the most difficult pressure on the employers. We want to change the organization of work in industry, to give the workers a say in it. Most employers want the unions to confine themselves to traditional issues like wages and conditions, and not question the power

## FOREIGN REPORT

### France's non-conformist union leader

presidential elections. Both come from the leftist intellectual PSU. Both bring a questioning of accepted left-wing ideas with a startling degree of realism; and for this reason, both are highly suspect to the Communists and the more doctrinaire Socialists.

M. Maire emphasized: "You don't change patterns of consumption or production, merely by legislation. You need a strong popular mobilization for a social project. That's why I said the Left had had it if nothing changed."

Worker participation is a dimension of action, not a distant Utopia. I prefer to look at it as a collective movement, in which everyone has a part to play. Otherwise, it is reaching for the moon."

At present, there was a

strong temptation for all left-wing parties to escape from the harsh reality of the economic crisis into ideology and verbalism, because the type of solution called for requires the surrender of privileges and established positions. The French Left is trying to win the elections by the addition of wins. It hopes the mistakes of the Right will insure that power falls into its lap.

"It's a very bad attitude. The Right always has alternative solutions on hand. The Left can only win by demonstrating its virtues and the relevance of its proposals. Today, only realism is revolutionary."

Five theories or mere anathemas were not enough. It was not enough to condemn the country's present leadership, if the Left had nothing to propose instead.

In a period of crisis like the present, people were worried, and their reaction was one of conservatism. They were attracted by those who reassured them. There were very efficient forces at work in the present regime. The Left had to appreciate this and the capacity of Frenchmen to grasp economic problems. It was not enough to speak of the "noble and generous left", in the style of the Third Republic, to assure people that wages and the standard of living would go up.

The worker participation is the key to M. Maire's industrial philosophy—the word is not too pretentious in his case: he has written a couple of books about it. It boils down to the view that you cannot decree changes, transform society or industrial relations only from above.

"You cannot come to grips with the present economic crisis merely through nationalizations or social measures". M. Maire insists. "Nationalizations are only an instrument. They don't tell you what to do or how. You can only change society by modifying patterns of production and consumption, and international trade."

Because we put the most difficult pressure on the employers. We want to change the organization of work in industry, to give the workers a say in it. Most employers want the unions to confine themselves to traditional issues like wages and conditions, and not question the power

and conditions, and not merely from leaders and institutions.

His condemnation of the nostrums of the very

&lt;p

Law Report January 17 1980

## Bombers' claims against police struck out

McKenna v Chief Constable of West Midlands and the Home Office.

Hunter and Others v Same and Chief Constable of Lancashire Before Lord Denning, Master of the Rolls, Lord Justice Goff and Sir George Baker

Six men, found guilty of murder in connection with bomb explosions in Birmingham, claimed that they had been tried by the Court of Appeal to be barred by issue estoppel or an abuse of the process of the court from bringing actions for assault and battery and for assault, alleged acts of violence which they had maintained at their trial had made their statements of confession involuntary and inadmissible.

At a trial within the trial, it had been alleged that the statements had been induced by violence and threats by the police, but Mr Justice Bridge had found that they were voluntary statements made without force or threats.

Their appeals against conviction had been dismissed by the Court of Appeal, Criminal Division.

Their Lordships, in reserved judgments, Lord Justice Goff dismissed the issue estoppel, allowed appeals by the defendant against Mr Justice Cantley's dismissal on November 22, 1978, of their applications to strike out the statements of claim of the plaintiffs, Noel Richard Walker, Robert Gerard Hunter, William Power, Hugh Daniel Callaghan and Patrick Joseph Hill, who were convicted of the murders of 21 people when a public house was bombed in Birmingham on November 21, 1974.

During the hearing, it was admitted on behalf of the Home Office that the plaintiffs were assaulted after their admission to prison on November 25, 1974, and that the assault had caused some injury. The Home Office did not admit the circumstances of such assaults. It was stated for the Home Office that it was the sole defendant (a) that the Home Office was not, and did not, allege that such injuries as the plaintiffs might have suffered were caused by assault were occasioned otherwise than in prison; and (b) that it was liable for such injuries as the plaintiffs might prove to have suffered in prison.

By writ of November 14, 1977, Power claimed against the Chief Constable of Lancashire damages for injury and suffering caused by assault and battery at Morecambe police station between November 21 and November 23, 1974, and against the West Midlands Chief Constable similar damages for assault and battery at Morecambe police station between November 21 and 23, at Queen's Road police station, and at the Central Lock, St. Pauls House Lane, Birmingham, and at Winsor Green prison, Birmingham, between November 21 and 26, and against the Home Office for similar injuries sustained by assault by the Home Office, their servants and agents and by their negligence and/or the assault and battery of prisoners under the control of the Home Office between November 24 and 26, at Winsor Green prison, Mr. Justice Twiss for the Chief Constable of the West Midlands; Mr. Hugh Carlisle, Mr. and Mr. John Laws for the Home Office; Mr. Twiss for the Chief Constable of Lancashire; Mr. Adrian Taylor for Mr. McMillen; Mr. Walker; Mr. Stephen Sedley for Mr. Hunter; Mr. David Turner-Sambrook QC, and Mr. Rock Tansley for Messrs. Power, Callaghan and Hill.

The MASTER OF THE ROLLS said that on Thursday, November 21, 1974, two crowd controllers, Mr. Mulberry Bush and the Tavern in the Town, were devastated by bombs; 21 people were killed and 161 injured. A newspaper was warned of the bombs at 8.30 pm. Police at New Street railway station, quite close to the bombed premises, had to be evacuated and had to leave Belfast at 1.35 pm, about 20 minutes before the bombs went off, with many Irish passengers on it. They had reason to suspect five of the passengers. Lancashire police met the train at Heysham, 200 miles away. Four of the men were arrested as they came through the barrier; the fifth on the Irish boat. The five were taken to Morecambe police station.

Birmingham police went to Morecambe and arrested five men on the Friday and in the evening drove them to Birmingham, where they were detained at Queen's Road police station. The same night the police arrested Callaghan.

On the Saturday the six were further interviewed. They all gave statements, some in writing, some by word of mouth, admitting their parts in placing the bombs.

The crucial point was that, apart from those confessions, the police had no sufficient evidence which to charge, let alone convict, the men. There was nothing but suspicion of the vaguest kind. The statements were vital. Were they obtained voluntarily or not?

The six men were photographed on November 14, 1977, the six men sued the Lancashire or West Midlands police and the Home Office. The main statement of claim repeated all their allegations against the police officers of violence and threats and also alleged assaults by the prison officers after they were taken to the prison.

The Home Office had admitted that the men were assaulted after they had given their statement in the cells. Some complained that they had been beaten up by the police and pointed to scratches on their faces; but those scratches might have been self-inflicted.

The men were remanded in custody, taken to Winsor Green prison, arriving at about 11.15 am, received by the prison officers, examined by Mr Justice Bridge; and if that was wrong, that the actions were an abuse of the process of the court.

When, three days later, the six again appeared before the magistrate there were gasps of astonishment. They had been beaten up. Their faces were black and blue. The paper was silent. The men were again remanded in custody.

The prison governor held his own inquiry. His officers made written statements that the men had been beaten while they were brought into the prison. Their statements, if believed, would go to show that the police had beaten them before they were received into the prison, though it might be that the prison officers also beat them up.

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## Court of Appeal

## SPORT

### Football

## Giles sets his heart on Wembley victory

Mick Kearns, the Wolverhampton Wanderers' goalkeeper, has been dropped by the Republic of Ireland for the European championship game against England at Wembley on February 6. Their manager, Johnny Giles, unhappy with Kearns' display in the previous game against Fulham, has picked Peter Lawrenson of Brighton.

Mark Lawrenson, of Brighton, returns to the party after missing the last four matches through injury, although he is currently playing in midfield for Brighton. Mr Giles is expected to give Lawrenson a defensive role against England.

The Irish party includes two sets of brothers: Arsenal's Dave O'Leary teams up again with his younger brother Peter, the Nottingham Forest Rover, and the North County full-back Ray O'Brien, his brother Fran, who is playing for the North American side, Philadelphia Purrs.

Mr Giles has arranged a game against a Danish under-21 side two days before the game against England as part of his build-up.

"It should prove an ideal way of preparing for the game against England which we do not want to let down," he said. "Hearing England would give us some compensation for failing to get through to the finals of the European championship."

Mr Giles stressed that he would not experiment at Wembley, which means delaying his World Cup preparation.



Mark Lawrenson: returning to fortify the Irish.

### Motor Rallying

## Talbot enter Monte Carlo rally after 12-year gap

A

Coventry-prepared Talbot Sunbeam Lourus is to take part in the Monte Carlo rally later this month. It is the first time the Talbot, formerly Chrysler, has entered the rally for 12 years. The car, launched on the European market last autumn, has a Lotus engine inside a specially "stiffened" Sunbeam body built at Linwood in Scotland. It is to be driven by Guy Farnell, with co-driver John Todd.

Björn Waldegaard of Sweden, among the strongest contenders in the rally, has switched cars for this year's event. He will be driving a Fiat 131 Abarth, with special tyres and a special body built by Farnell, which he took second place in last year. Reuter reports.

He believes he can find the right "medication" for the rally. The Channel has been closed. In the days of Killy and the Goitschels, he was brought back as a consultant a year or so ago to breathe new life into the French national team, so far without success.

So disturbed were the French Government by persistent failure on their and other people's Alps, and by its effect on both the winter sports industry and national pride, that their Sports Minister, M. Jean-Pierre Saison, finally

decided to be as much as possible to the French team.

The first objective of the Channel has been closed.

Mr Bonnet, a revered figure in the sport, has been denied him. Mr Bonnet, in the days of Killy and the Goitschels, was brought back as a consultant a year or so ago to breathe new life into the French national team, so far without success.

He believes he can find the right "medication" for the rally. The Channel has been closed.

He is playing with confidence and is due to start on the 13th.

One of the most successful drivers in the history of the 1990 rally is the Italian driver of the Fiat 131. Both she and Darniche are among the 78 starters from Paris.

The initial stages have been halved to about 240 miles with drivers converging on Serre

### Table tennis

## Mrs Jarvis in good books again

Linda Jarvis, an unexpected omission from England's world championship team last year, is back in favour with the selectors.

She is in the party of 14 shortlisted for the European championship in Geneva, Switzerland, from April 5 to 13.

The Surrey bank clerk, who was Linda Howard until her marriage to Nicky Jarvis last year, has formed notable doubles partnerships in recent years with

England's pair, Phil Skoglund and Kevin Darling, have won 26-17 against Ireland, 20-17 against Zambia and 22-15 against Malawi.

One of the most stalwartly fought matches today was the triples game between Wales and Fiji, which lasted four hours and often tricky roads of the Ardèche area of South Central France. Organizers had skipped this portion last year because, during an earlier rally, a heavy snow storm held up a large part of the field on the Ardèche plateau.

The main stage of the rally then starts on Monday night when the drivers speed into a mountain circuit 330 miles long from Monaco to Valence. Bairnsdale and Monte Carlo. They are due before dawn after going through special tests totalling 77 miles.

The last stage, involving the 100 drivers' speed on the top timings, is a 24-mile drive through the mountains of the Pyrenees to the finish in Monte Carlo.

The stage includes 10 special speed tests including 113 miles and is run at night between Thursday and Friday.

One of the first objectives of the 1990 rally is the inclusion in the main stage of runs through the narrow and often tricky roads of the Ardèche area of South Central France. Organizers had skipped this portion last year because, during an earlier rally, a heavy snow storm held up a large part of the field on the Ardèche plateau.

The surprise winner last year, veteran French driver Béatrice Darniche, will again be driving a Lancia Stratos with her countryman, Michel Monteil, the French girl who won the women's cup last year and is again competing in a Fiat 131. Both she and Darniche are among the 78 starters from Paris.

The initial stages have been halved to about 240 miles with drivers converging on Serre

### Ice skating

## NEGATIVE: World junior championships

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## THE ARTS

## Capturing the music of the sphinx

Kate Nelligan  
as Caroline

## Dreams of Leaving

BBC 1

## Michael Ratcliffe

William (Bill Nighy) was an ordinary provincial journalist who came to London in 1971 in search of a job and a plentiful supply of birds. He found both. "I don't want to be nostalgic," he warned us at the start of David Hare's first television play since *Licking Hitler*. "After all, this is only nine years ago." But the tormenting events he described might have been taking place on another galaxy—for all the resemblance he bore to his conventionally permissive marriage today.

Caroline was a prize-winning photographer. She worked in a smart, rapacious gallery, then for a rock-group. She could also dance well. Her mother's family were Russian and was celebrated at the Savoy in the twenties for eating its food so noisily that it was asked to take its meals behind a screen. She was what the Pre-Raphaelite Baudelaire would have called a siren; she was promiscuous, and she was a sphinx. "I love more than anything to make love to strangers," she told William darkly as she undressed. "It makes me forget who I am." The phone rang.

Not the least of Kate Nelligan's exceptional abilities is the talent to fill lines like that with intelligence and feeling and make them sound original and



## Australian cinema: simple virtues, natural blessings

My Brilliant Career  
(U)  
Screen on the Hill  
(from January 24)The Swissmakers (A)  
Paris Pullman

## The Movie

Newspaper film critics have been going too soft on Australian films, according to the *Pravda* of orthodox good taste in film, *Sight and Sound*. Well, perhaps the renaissance in Australian film-making in the last 10 years was sometimes greeted with overgenerous enthusiasm, but there were very few other film movements during the Seveteen of such consistent quality.

When original, as with Philip Noyce's *Newsfrom* or Donald Crombie's *Caddie*, Australian films were often the most stimulating around. But for every one of those there were several hundred offshoots. They were usually set in the last century, made easy use of the bewitching Australian landscape, kept on the straight and narrow of narrative cinema and always progressed chronologically. Peter Weir's *Picnic at Hanging Rock* set a standard to match but his competitors rarely attained it.

In such a context, it is with some hesitation that I commend *My Brilliant Career*, a first feature from Gill Armstrong. Like most Australian films, it is a costume drama, set in 1897, which starts at the beginning and ends at the end and uses to the full the natural benefits of the Australian light and countryside. It is, none the less, an extraordinary debut and a gifted piece of film-making.

Taken from Miles Franklin's novel, it relates the noble and humorous emergence of an independent woman, Sybylla, in an age when women were considered little more than men's playthings. In one brief scene, as her father rolls over in bed before sleep, we are told the root of Sybylla's social rebellion. She is the product of a marriage between a humble farmer and a well-to-do woman who married, for love, well beneath her social level.

Sybylla, with a foot in either class, learns to take the best from both worlds. From her

Judy Davis as Sybylla in *My Brilliant Career*.....

maternal grandmother, with whom she stays, she acquires the easy grace and a discerning eye for the good things of life. From her father and his home circumstances, she has learned that women need not be like caged birds and that often more fun is to be had among the lower orders.

Part of the quiet power of the film comes through the acting of Judy Davis, a lively, sparkling intelligence and a robust, innocent sense of purpose. But equally important to the creation of this rounded, sympathetic portrait of a precocious feminist are the skills of social observation and the sensitivity of the production team.

Although both the fine photography by Don McAlpine, and the editing were by men, Gill

Armstrong leads a predominantly female credits list and their influence shows through.

Only rarely male directors, like Alan Parker, have cultivated a real interest in presenting women as sexual protagonists. Most dominant female roles have been created in response to the box office's need to show certain actresses, such as Bette Davis, Katherine Hepburn or Greta Garbo, in control of events. *My Brilliant Career* does not stem from that commercial tokenism but from a desire to tell a good, personal story about a woman.

Even when following a standard Hollywood cliché of female behaviour, with Sybylla stalking out of a grand ball because her lover danced with another, the motives are different. By joining the servants and the hands in the marquee

on the lawn, Sybylla is making a deliberate social point: women are happier out of the stuffy male preserves of polite Victorian society among the relaxed and more equal sexual climate of the working class.

The ending, too, avoids the obvious solutions to a story of conflicting wills. Although Sybylla begins to marry by a stroke of fate and understands her as an independent woman, she reluctantly turns him away, saying that she has only just begun to break out of the straitjacket of social norms and that it is too early to settle down to a conventional life just yet. As the final credits roll, Sybylla is standing looking over a five-bar gate, having slipped the manuscript for *My Brilliant Career* into the rustic, makeshift post box.

Racial inequality is the

around a member of this thought and behaviour police that the comedy is based.

Max Bodner (Walo Löbli) is an eager servant who can, without shame or embarrassment, inflict his company on would-be Swiss and judge them against his own ignorance. Like all natural censors, he is a man of little imagination with which he has built up a substantial stock of mean, reactionary ideas. Laughing at this small man, showing himself up for the cretin that he is, makes fair comedy. But if the film is seriously intended to expose a thoroughly nasty system, and the sort of personnel it attracts, then the humour should have jumped off the fence more often and faced the ugliness full on.

*The Movie* is a weekly magazine which, if kept, builds into a history of the cinema. To judge from the first six issues, the intention seems to be to present clear, factual, readable accounts of the films, the stars, the directors and the studios. For this it must be welcomed. There has been an upsurge of interest in the history of the cinema, largely stoked, I suspect, by the pride of place given to old films on television. If *The Movie* encourages a more critical assessment of these films, it will be doing a good service.

The magazines are lavishly illustrated and include contributions from some very distinguished names, including our own David Robinson, who is the magazine's consultant editor. At the moment *The Movie* is marching through the familiar story of the coming of sound and we are on safe territory. There is very little room for argument here and, for many movie buffs, the magazine will only reinforce what they already know.

As time goes by, however, we will be reaching more uncertain ground, as we come closer to the present day and—which may seem strange—as we dig back through the history of the silent era which was so quickly born and disappeared after *The Jazz Singer* made the art redundant. It is then that *The Movie* can be expected to be more controversial and will deserve more constructive criticism.

Nicholas Wapshot

David Robinson is at the Indian Film Festival in Bangalore.

## The Hindsight Saga

Riverside Studios

## Ned Chaillet

They call it the "anecdote", that stage of a career or a life when a man or a woman lives on reminiscences. When a man's achievements have been matched stage by stage in his career with anecdotes that have been passed around whenever his name is mentioned, he could perhaps avoid that descent into jokes and stories that is a substitute for new adventures.

Sir Bernard Miles has instead embraced his anecdote with a programme of recollections that he calls *The Hindsight Saga*. It is at times a simple autobiographical display, with slides of his childhood and songs from Sunday school that he encourages the audience to sing. Other moments provide a gaudy comic display of his skills at mimicry, as he conjures up a picture of a canny and vaguely illiterate countryman.

His founding of the Mermaid Theatre in Blackfriars is perhaps the single event in his

## Leipzig plans to visit Sadler's Wells

The first visit to London by an opera company from East Germany, the Leipzig Opera, is among the planned events for this year's programme at the Sadler's Wells Theatre, an

announced this week. Negotiations for the visit in June are still being completed, but Handel's *Xerxes* and Mozart's *Così fan tutte* are the operas planned.

## Arena

BBC 2

## Joan Bakewell

Those who lived through the holocaust of *Mainstream* can sleep soundly once again. *Arena* is at its best. It shifts from the nearly maudlin to sentimental rural comedy suggest that it is an honest display, and as such it is most fitting that those who have wanted to know him better. Others may find themselves restless in the darkened auditorium.

The performance by Sir Bernard is an attempt at autobiography in the form he knows best. It shifts from the nearly maudlin to sentimental rural comedy suggest that it is an honest display, and as such it is most fitting that those who have wanted to know him better. Others may find themselves restless in the darkened auditorium.

Richard Rogers and Renzo Piana created the Beaubourg Arts Centre in Paris, better known among buskers as the Pompidou Centre. You could say they have turned architecture on its head, if they had not so skilfully unfolded that in just 35 minutes you learnt, and easily, a whole lot about the man.

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Richard Rogers spoke admiringly of "the theatre of the streets", but it remains to be seen if these magical French concoction will work here. I bet it never gets built.

BBCSO/Pritchard  
St John's

## Paul Griffiths

Rescuing forgotten British music is becoming quite a feature of the BBC's "Sacred and Profane" series at St John's, as well as presenting various programmes under that now too exclusive title. On Wednesday, with no chorus to carry the religious burden, John Pritchard and the BBC Symphony Orchestra offered two seldom-heard memorials representing the sombre: Rawsthorne's *Elegies Rhapsody* for Macneice and the Little Symphony which Alexander Goehr composed as a tribute to his father.

The Rawsthorne piece, played by a modest string orchestra, benefited from church acoustics which were made all the more reverberant by the unfortunate smallness of the audience, and which cast a veil of wistful sadness over the light dancing grace that Mr Pritchard fittingly brought out. If the work was designed as a homage to a poet's deathness, it seemed here to speak also of its composer's clarity and seriousness of pur-

pose in fulfilling a minor master's role.

Goehr's Little Symphony, despite its title, is much more ambitious. The very slow first movement consists only of an epitaph for strings in five short phrases, but this then becomes the subject of a wide-ranging symphonic discourse whose elegance and tautness were prominently displayed in this performance.

Mr Pritchard succinctly emphasized the diversity of character among the variations which make up the second movement, but the contrasts were balanced in a way that lent drive to the argument. The third movement, much too elaborately worked to be called a scherzo, was kept from appearing insipidly tame, and the finale was a fully coherent, if circuitous return to the music of the opening. Undoubtedly the resonating space again helped in proving the resilience of this work, written to be played in York Minster.

However, the "churchy" sound only underlined what is offensively knowing in Britten's Serenade, though the piece was saved by the freshness and the ringing appeal of Ryland Davies, who obliged one in accepting his lyrical offerings as innocent of irony.

They were all relevantly introduced by the singers and pianist, to general laughter, when two of the sexiest Wolf-Mörike songs were contrasted with outbursts of British moral fervour in that year. The American tenor Robert White was a useful guest, in both speech and song, likewise Jill Gomez though words are not supreme in her singing, and her soft top notes tend to flutter. Richard Jackson, their baritone, was in lively form, likewise Mr Johnson—Songmakers' Almanac are never disappointing.

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## Afghanistan: assessing Soviet strategy and military might

# How Russia could swiftly move in fresh troops

The news from Afghanistan has been bad for everyone except arguably for western military intelligence officers who, contrary to popular belief, detected the first signs of Soviet mobilization several months before the Christmas coup. Moreover the operation has gone according to plan—a Soviet plan maybe, but at least one whose basic pattern has long been understood in the West.

In that sense the Afghan crisis has been an exercise for NATO intelligence techniques and analytical skills in the validation of them. Specialists whose job it is to assess the likely pattern of any Soviet offensive against the West will not at least have to return to the drawing board.

Intelligence reports of Soviet activity began to filter through even before the late President Hafizullah Amin seized power last September. Some analysts point to an even more longstanding Russian aim to install Babrak Karmal, whose relationship to the Kremlin resembles that of a dummy to a ventriloquist. But it is doubtful if the Soviet intervention would have been as dramatic without the growing unrest in Afghanistan and the parallel collapse of western investment in Iran.

Reports that Mr Brezhnev opposed the Afghan operation are meanwhile being discounted as the indirect outcome of Soviet propaganda designed to preserve its reputation as the apostle of detente. Analysts believe that the Kremlin drew up a "worst-case" scenario which took into account both an embargo on American grain and a threat to the Moscow Olympics—and placed their faith in the success of a "cool" public relations exercise in the spring.

Militarily there is certainly no doubt that the Russians fore-saw the Afghan adventure as a limited operation which would

impinge little upon the overall strength of their military machine. So far little has emerged to dent their confidence.

The Red Army is nearly 2,000,000 strong, and about two men out of three are conscripts serving for two years. With a turnover of 5,000,000 or so conscripts every five years, all of whom belong to various categories of the reserves until the age of 50, the overall size could be more than trebled within a week of mobilization.

Those serving help to form



Russian troops pose beside an armoured vehicle on the outskirts of Kabul.

Russians used only units from the 24 or so divisions in what is loosely described as the southern districts of the USSR, although the invasion was under the command of a Moscow-based general who is now in Kabul. Most of the divisions are Category C motor rifle divisions, locally reinforced by rapid mobilization of reserves.

Spearheading the invasion was the 105th Guards Airborne division from Eastern Uzbekistan, a Category A unit which was airlifted to Kabul by a fleet of Il-76, Antonov-12 and giant Antonov-22 freighters belonging to the 1,200-strong Air Transport Command. Each A-22 is capable of lifting a T-62 tank.

Together with the 105th in Afghanistan there are now two motor rifle divisions, and a variety of assorted smaller units. Intelligence sources discount press reports of five or even seven full divisions in the country and also believe that those numbered between 80,000 and 100,000 troops are an exaggeration. The total number in Afghanistan is believed to be nearer to 50,000, although other units are mobilized near the Afghan border.

These additional troops could be introduced to the country in the next few weeks—and will only slightly below that. Others are Category B which are only at half-strength and the rest are Category C which are at one-quarter strength and are little more than cadre formations, relying upon the mobilization of reserves to make them ready for war. This can be done quite quickly.

Nato's worst-case estimates

are that Category A divisions

can be brought up to strength

in 24 hours, Category B in 48

hours and Category C in 72

hours—and the Afghan operation

is largely confirmed these

estimates.

For the Afghan operation the

## Western military intelligence officers detected the first signs of Soviet mobilization several months before the coup

probably be needed if the Russians switch to a concentrated offensive against Afghan tribesmen in the mountains. At present Soviet forces are being used mainly in support of Afghanistan's own forces or in counter-strokes following assaults by tribesmen on Soviet supply lines.

Such an offensive could be

launched in the spring as the

weather improves, unless the Russians decide that it would be wiser to concentrate upon the restoration of relations with the West and the Third World.

Certainly at present their objective would seem to be to consolidate their control of key towns and communications while encouraging a return to more-or-less normal life in the country.

Few observers think that they

have much chance of eliminating insurgency among the hillmen, and that their only realistic aim must be to bring the tribesmen to a "negotiable level", a phrase well known to the Army in Northern Ireland.

How long this might take is itself a matter for speculation.

Strictly speaking, the reservists

who have been recalled to reinforce the units now in Afghanistan are subject to only three months' service in any one year—except during a state of national emergency. Most were mobilized within a few weeks of the Christmas coup and were probably given a short reinduction to the military arts before being dispatched over the frontier. Will the Soviet Army keep to the rules and rotate them when their three-month tour is ended, in say, March?

Although MiG-21s and MiG-23s

have been involved in air strikes

to support the Red Army—as have the army's own armoured Hind helicopters—the equipment used has been standard Russian issue with little sign of the most modern weapons. Tanks ferried into the country have been T-62s and even T-54/55s with no confirmed sightings of the latest T-72s—despite press reports. Many of the "soft-skinned" vehicles which have been civilian trucks, which is normal Russian practice in wartime.

Intelligence sources are drawing the inference that the Russians are treating the Afghan operation as a regional adventure—the latest in a "negotiable level", a phrase well known to the Army in Northern Ireland.

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Henry Stanhope  
Defence Correspondent

## Why Karmal and the Russians should have known better

### For hundreds of miles across Afghanistan the villages remain virtually unchanged since the days of Ghengis Khan

books published under Tarraki's guidance—can be so easily found. And indeed, the record of the PDP since the Saur revolution of 1978 ("Saur" means April) has been one not of interrupted social progress and anti-imperialists struggle but of almost constant and bloody interneeding.

Only now, it appears, are the Russians beginning to understand the reason for this failure and to realize that the ideology imposed on comparatively sophisticated societies in Eastern Europe cannot be grafted with the same mixture of loud enthusiasm and brutality upon the uneducated peasantry of Afghanistan.

For this is one of the poorest,

most isolated lands in the

world with 95 per cent illiteracy, a nation whose tribal

unity has been held together

by traditionalism and the com-

plexity of political life in the country that presents the Russians with their greatest difficulty. What threatens their credibility—quite apart from their military intervention—is the almost total failure of each Soviet-backed regime to make the social and material progress expected of a modern socialist state.

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## BLOODY WET IN EUROPE

The way that Chancellor Schmidt chose to present his government's position on the Afghan crisis in his statement to the Bundestag yesterday was unfortunate. He bracketed the Afghan problem together with the Iranian one, and pledged West German support for the United States in both cases. He was not as feeble as M François Ponsat, but that sets an unmatchable standard.

The fact is that the two issues are quite different in character. In the Iranian context it is quite correct to speak of offering support to the United States, since the crisis concerns American diplomats who have been taken hostage. But in Afghanistan there is no particular American interest at stake. There is first and foremost an Afghan interest. Next there is the interest of other states in the region which are potential victims of the next Soviet aggression. Thirdly there is the interest of all those who depend on the Middle East for their energy supplies—and West Germany does so to a much greater extent than the United States. Finally there is the interest of the world in general, which may suffer if the Soviet Union is encouraged to think it can invade other countries with impunity. If Afghanistan, why not?

In asking other Western countries to cooperate in applying sanctions to the Soviet Union, therefore, President Carter is not appealing to our sense of friendship or loyalty as an ally. He is appealing to our sense of self-preservation. He should not need even to do that, because our sense of self-preservation ought to be well enough developed to perceive the threat, and to want to do something about it, without waiting for an American leader to point it out to us. It is particularly unfortunate that, while the British Government clearly does see matters that way, the instinctive reaction of our Euro-

pean partners seems to be that the Soviet Union against the resolution of the proposed substantial increase in the price of gas, in the context of the large profits made by the British Gas Corporation.

However, you do not identify the basic cause of this situation, namely that not only is British Gas the monopoly supplier, but that, also, a previous Government fixed the price paid by British Gas at well below the going rate elsewhere—there was thus achieved the dual result of inhibiting exploration and production while stimulating consumption—that is exactly what the United States Government did by its also politically motivated control of the prices charged by United States Utilities with consequences which are now apparent.

That is, surely, why we now find ourselves in the totally absurd position of a demand for gas which can not be met, and that at a time when very large quantities of North Sea gas are being flared.

Further, it is reported that Shell's new major gas discovery in the Norwegian sector will probably be piped, not to the United Kingdom, but by a very much longer pipeline to Western Germany, at a price comparable to oil.

It is not the obvious answer to reverse the decision giving British Gas a monopoly, and to allow the price fixed, to the producer, to be fixed by normal market procedures.

We might well, then, also see a proper development of down-stream activities from North Sea gas feedstock.

Yours faithfully,  
NICHOLAS KALDOR,  
King's College,  
Cambridge.

January 16.

From Mr Goeffrey W. W. Pontin  
Sir, In your leading article today (January 16), on gas prices, you say that "this country has indulged in muddled thinking about its nationalized industries for too long". The "muddled thinking" arose from the obligation imposed by law (introduced by the Attlee Government) to relate the prices charged for services provided by nationalized industries to the costs of production (including a normal return on capital) and not to charge the monopoly price, the price that "the traffic can bear".

Gas is "underpriced" because oil has become too dear. The rise in the domestic oil price to levels dictated by the sheiks of the Middle East is justified in turn by the argument that this is necessary for providing incentives to the consumer to economise on oil and to switch to gas and coal. If the incentive thus provided turns out to be

too great—as shown by the "excessive demand for conversion to gas"—surely the argument is one for reducing the domestic oil price, not one for aligning gas and electricity prices to the ludicrously inflationary price of oil.

If, on the other hand, the "unmuddled" principle of nationalized industry pricing is to charge what the traffic can bear, irrespective of costs, then what remains of Sir Keith Joseph's argument that the "taxpayer" should not be asked to foot the losses on steel? If high demand justifies a huge profit on gas, then surely the present low demand equally justifies a huge loss on steel—particularly when the excess profit on the one is ample for covering the losses on the other?

Yours faithfully,  
NICHOLAS KALDOR,  
King's College,  
Cambridge.

January 16.

From Mr G. C. Allen, FBA  
Sir, In your leading article today (January 16), on gas prices, you say that "this country has indulged in muddled thinking about its nationalized industries for too long".

Even Marie Antoinette never suggested that the price of flour be increased to line up with the price of cake.

I am Sir, your obedient servant.

GEOFFREY W. W. PONTIN,  
Chairman,  
Control Technology Limited,  
Bolton Avenue,  
Peacehaven,  
Sussex.

January 16.

From the Reverend Dr Chad Varah  
Sir, You state that there is no rational reason (sic) why one sector of the public (gas consumers) should pay less for their energy than the other (consumers of electricity).

Yours faithfully,  
DR CHAD VARAH,  
123 Goring Road,  
Worthing,  
Sussex.

January 16.

From Professor G. C. Allen, FBA  
Sir, In their criticism (January 15) of the Memorandum (January 9) addressed to Mrs Thatcher and Mr Callaghan, Lord Balogh and Mr Opie argue that it is fallacious to suppose the British Disease to government intervention, since its symptoms were evident long before that intervention became extensive. But these historical facts are not in dispute. The Memorandum was not concerned with an analysis of the causes of the British secular relative decline. It was addressed to the present problem of inflation, a malady from which Britain was free, in peace, until after the Second World War.

The Memorandum's central position was that the monetary policy that is being applied as a remedy against inflation is being frustrated by monopolistic practices that affect the labour market and many transactions in goods and services in both the public and the private sectors. Unless these practices can be got rid of, some degree of flexibility restored to prices and wages, and the power of vested interests to resist change overcome, monetary policy can best provide only a partial solution and inflation will remain with us.

Yours, etc.,  
G. C. ALLEN,  
15 Kirke Court,  
380 Banbury Road, Oxford.

January 16.

From Mr P. W. Duncanson  
Sir, Discussion of Northern Ireland's constitutional position is greatly hindered by the misuse of words. Mr Cecil Lewis (January 10) refers to the "withdrawal" of the United Kingdom from Northern Ireland.

The same "United Kingdom"

refers specifically to the new kingdom created in 1801 by the union of the Kingdom of Great Britain and the Kingdom of Ireland. This was modified earlier this century with the detachment of two-thirds of the Irish population to form the Republic of Ireland.

The United Kingdom is now the kingdom formed jointly by Northern Ireland and Great Britain. If, therefore, the union of the territories is ended the United Kingdom will cease to exist.

One can therefore reasonably refer to the withdrawal of Britain from the United Kingdom or, as seen from the other side, the expulsion of Northern Ireland from the United Kingdom.

The United Kingdom will cease to exist if it is to succeed.

That is why businesses trading overseas, with whom as overseas directors of the CBI I used to work, consistently oppose attacks on the Foreign and Commonwealth Service by stay-at-home M&Ts and others. The never-give-boots-we have in common, the more and better resident bilingual persuaders we need, to the public as well as the private payroll.

Yours faithfully,  
P. W. DUNCANSON,  
County Antrim.

January 16.

From Mr Paul Sieghart  
Sir, Lord Shawcross (January 11) has met Mr Bennion's point (January 9) only in part.

The list of converts to the notion of a modern Bill of Rights on our statute book grows apace. Lord Hailsham, Lord Denning and Professor Dohrendorf, once articulate opponents have now all joined in.

Mr Bennion objects that such a law would "necessarily consist of vague statements of principle, subject to equally vague exceptions", which someone would have to interpret.

Quite so: that has been the case

in every one of the world's countries which (unlike the UK) have

followed the example first set by

France in 1789 and the USA in 1791. The US Supreme Court has

accumulated a wealth of experience in interpreting just such "vague"

legal provisions. So have the constitutional courts of dozens of other countries.

So, over nearly 30 years, have the European Commission and Court of Human Rights, interpreting the European Convention which would be the leading candidate for the text of a new Bill of Rights of our own.

Why should our judges fail, when all those others have succeeded?

When I once asked a distinguished member of our judiciary whether he and his brethren would find it difficult to interpret the European Convention if it became part of English law, his reply was: "Yes, at first we would. But we would soon learn. After all, that's what we're here for".

Yours etc.,  
PAUL SIEGHART,  
6 Gray's Inn Square, WC1.

January 14.

From Mr C. E. Carrington  
Sir, Your article of January 12 is

correct in naming Mr Springbett as

the fastest man in the atmosphere

but wrong in claiming for him a

record circumnavigation.

He did not cross the equator but

took a short cut round a sector of

the northern hemisphere. Or per-

haps I should more accurately say,

a slice.

Circumnavigation implies cross-

ing the equator, or a meridian at

two opposite points.

I am, Sir, etc.

C. E. CARRINGTON,  
36 Canbury Park South, N1.

January 12.

Yours truly,  
C. E. CARRINGTON,  
45 Pearce Avenue, Poole.

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From Mr G. B. Bentley  
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Yours truly,  
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45 Pearce Avenue, Poole.

January 16.

From Mr E. L. Howard  
Sir, The Archbishop of Canterbury

in his letter to you (January 16),

complains of "lack of publicity"

for the proposed European Ferries

building at Vauxhall Cross.

In reality the developers, and we as

their architects, have taken consider-

able pains to secure publicity.

Quite apart from normal statutory

advertisements, European Ferries

mounted two public exhibitions (one

of them within 100 yards of the

Archbishop's London residence),

sent a full press statement to

national and London evening news-

papers, and the local authorities

notified more than a dozen bodies

concerned with environmental and

amenity questions. Moreover, the

BBC's nationwide programme tele-

vised part of the first day of the

public inquiry (December 11).

The Archbishop and his co-

signatories also refer to the building

as "the Green Giant" and describe

it as clad in green glass. This is not

so. It will be clad in a light tinted

glass giving an appearance of trans-

parency, and though a final decision as to the exact tint has yet to be

taken, we cannot use green glass

because it would fail to protect the

exhibits in the gallery spaces.

The proposal is, incidentally, to

house some of the Tate Gallery's

modern art there; it is not and has

never been proposed to put the

Tate there.

It is a great pity that the Arch-

bishop and his co-signatories have

not been present at the inquiry,

either in person or by written

representation, or (with one excep-

tion) communicated with the

Inspector presiding. None of the

scheme's eminent critics seem to

have considered it necessary to

encumber their minds with the full

facts, which we would have been

happy to assist them in clarifying.

We have brought both the Arch-



# THE TIMES

## BUSINESS NEWS

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■ Stock markets
FT Ind 450.8 down 4.7
FT Gilts 68.80 down 0.05
■ Sterling
52.2770 up 92 $\frac{1}{2}$ points
Index 71.6 down 0.1
■ Dollar
Index 84.7 up 0.1
■ Gold
5760 an ounce up \$5
■ 3-month money
Inter-bank 1612 to 1614
Euro \$ 13 $\frac{1}{2}$ to 14 $\frac{1}{2}$

## IN BRIEF

### Dixons plans complete disposal of Westons

Dixons Photographic is on the verge of a complete withdrawal from the retail pharmaceuticals business just four years after it paid £10.5m for Westons, the United Kingdom's second-largest chain of chemists.

Sales of 141 Westons' shops are currently at various stages of negotiation and buyers will soon be sought for the remaining 20 outlets. At the same time Dixons is well into a rationalization programme for Westons' wholesale division, designed to reduce the existing number of depots from 27 to 12.

Mr Egon von Greyerz, Dixons finance director, said that the sales could produce a gross figure of something over £12m. Most of the shops are being sold to individuals although several according to Mr von Greyerz have been bought by Westons' former chairman, Mr Ralph Weston, who is now with Combined English Stores.

Financial Editor, page 19

### Industry Bill progress

The Industry Bill, which drastically reduces the powers of the National Enterprise Board and the Scottish and Welsh Development Agencies, has completed its committee stage in the Commons.

### Polystyrene prices up

Shell Chemicals UK and BP Chemicals say they will increase polystyrene prices from February. Shell said crystal grade polystyrene will be raised to £670 from £625 per tonne. BP's increases will be in the 8 to 10 per cent range, with variations in other European countries.

### Shares disposal

Mr Neville Johnson, who resigned as chairman and chief executive of the furniture group Kitchen Queen on Wednesday, sold the major slice of his shares at 103p, less than half the market price on that day.

Financial News, page 20

### Consumer spending up

Consumer spending rose by 1.4 per cent during the third and fourth quarters of last year, after seasonal adjustment. First preliminary estimates show that spending rose in most areas which had been depressed in the third quarter.

Table, page 18.

### Esso puts on 4p

Esso has raised the price of its four star petrol from midnight by 3.5p a gallon which will mean an extra 4p to be paid by motorists at the pumps.

### Thorn-Necchi venture

Thorn Domestic Appliances is to form a new £5m company with Necchi of Italy to manufacture hermetically sealed compressors for refrigerators and freezers in County Durham.

### £3m order for Decca

The Ministry of Defence has placed a £3m order with Decca Navigator for the installation of doppler navigation systems in Royal Navy Sea King helicopters.

### Wall Street easier

On the New York Stock Exchange, the Dow Jones industrial average was down 1.62 to 863.57. Against the SDR, the dollar stood at 1.32065 and the pound at 0.583455.

## Textile industry leaders' plea to keep short time aid

By John Huxley

Attempts were being made yesterday by textile footwear and clothing leaders to avert a Government decision to end its scheme of short time working assistance for the industries.

It is feared that if an announcement that the scheme is to end were made by Mr James Prior, Secretary of State for Employment, within the next few days, MPs are likely to question Mr Prior over the future of the scheme today.

The scheme, which reimburses employers for wages paid to workers on short time, came into effect on April 1 last year. It has helped employers to protect more than 40,000 jobs, 15,000 of which are in the depressed textiles industry. It is understood that the total number of people to have benefited from the scheme may be about 120,000.

Short time working assistance was introduced after the Labour Government was forced, reluctantly and under pressure from other members of the European Community, to end its system of temporary employment subsidy (TES). About 9,000 applications relating to 540,000 jobs have been made for TES, which was introduced primarily to mitigate the effect of adverse trading conditions in the textiles, clothing and footwear industries. It was wound up in March 1979 after protests from within the Community that TES within saving jobs, represented a subsidy to industry.

A decision to stop giving short time assistance is believed to be favoured by the Department of Industry, which has in the past signalled its dislike of measures which prop up ailing industries.

Leaders of industries to benefit from short time assistance think it less effective than TES as a means of pro-

tecting jobs since payments to companies are made retrospective.

However, withdrawal of assistance could do considerable damage to the industries which are suffering from a downturn in trade and the effects of cheap imports, high interest rates and adverse exchange rate movements.

Leaders in each of the three sectors have written to Mr Prior urging him to postpone the ending of assistance for another year. Then, they say, a further review should be made.

Mr Bob Lloyd-Jones, director general of the British Textiles Employers Association, said that the ending of the scheme would hit the textiles industry severely.

"Any idea of abandoning the scheme now would make already difficult conditions for textile mills absolutely impossible in many cases," To do so would run the risk of losing a large part of the textile industry, much of which was produced efficiently.

The withdrawal of assistance would particularly hit smaller companies in the textiles, footwear and clothing industries which do not have the resources to sustain a reverse in trading conditions. Workers may now have to be made redundant rather than retained on short time working as in the past.

EEC quotas—New import quotas on garments from the Philippines, Hongkong and India have been introduced by the EEC Commission following representations from the United Kingdom government. The quotas are on babies' under and outer garments from the Philippines, under garments from Hongkong and jackets and blazers from India.

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## Rhodesian windfall for Turner and Newall

By Rosemary Unsworth

Turner and Newall, the Manchester-based asbestos and motor components group, has discovered that its Rhodesian subsidiaries made profits of £299m during the 14 years of UDI.

After a recent fact-finding mission by the group's financial team, T & N found that the companies, which operate three asbestos mines and manufacture construction and industrial materials, had boosted net assets from £6.3m in 1965 when the last accounts were consolidated, to £92m based on aggregate figures for the subsequent years to December 12, 1979.

The mining section contributed £83m during this period while the manufacturing side made £14m. In addition, the mining company management invested in three small gold mining joint ventures which provide £353,000 profits in 1980 on top of the £12m forecast for the other Rhodesian operations.

However, Mr Stephen Gibbs, the group's chairman, gave a warning that the forecast had been made on the assumption that all hostilities would cease and that there would be no major interruptions.

He stressed that the forecast would only hold if profit margins were not undermined by "excessive inflation or other unforeseen circumstances".

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Electrical equipment makers face hold-up over approval certificates

## Inquiry into safety test delays

Serious delays in issuing safety certificates by the British Approvals Service for Electrical Equipment in Flammable Atmospheres (BASEEFA) are to be investigated. The Government has set up a study group of industrialists to look into the delays in the issuing of safety approval certificates for equipment made by British companies. Some companies who applied for certificates three or more years ago still have not received them.

Until companies get certificates it means their goods cannot be offered for sale either in this country or abroad. The effects on the export trade in particular, a sector in which British companies have a high reputation, will be an important part of the investigation.

During the past year companies have been turning to official testing organizations in other EEC countries to get clearance certificates, but there are difficulties in doing this and many feel that the value of a British certificate is greater.

Mr Patrick Mayhew, Under-Secretary of State for Employment, who has set up the study group, under the chairmanship of Mr Denis Johnson, a director of Tube

Investments, has given an indication of the scale of the delays at BASEEFA. The organization has its headquarters at Buxton, Derbyshire, is staffed by civil servants and administered by the Government's Health and Safety Executive.

Last October the number of applications awaiting approval at BASEEFA numbered 760. Only 30 per cent of the applications received during 1979 up to October had been cleared by then, and there were 46 per cent of the 1978 applications and 23 per cent of the 1977 applications still outstanding from the previous year.

The study group has already been told of one application still outstanding from 1977 when BASEEFA was established, but some applications are dealt with within six months.

Although there is no question in the industry about the high standing of BASEEFA's work there have been difficulties about delays almost from its inception. One of the issues the study group will consider is whether staff should be increased, although the situation is regarded as being so serious that temporary arrangements with other testing facilities in this country are likely to be considered.

Equipment tested by BASEEFA covers

a wide range of items, from flame-proof motors, switches and starters to underwater flameproof television cameras. Much of the equipment is used in petrochemical installations, including oil rigs, and in mines.

Because some of the equipment is heavy it makes it difficult for companies to transport BASEEFA and send products for testing on the Continent. Hundreds of companies are involved, from giants like the General Electric Company to many smaller ones.

Mr Johnson, a former president of the British Electrical and Allied Manufacturers' Association (BEAMA) which has campaigned for Government action on the delays, said that more companies appeared to have applied to EEC countries for certificates. Last year BASEEFA received only 419 applications—within its capacity of around 500 a year—but true demand had been estimated at about 900.

"The delays are a serious constriction on business. It could easily lead to a demotivation of research work," Mr Johnson said.

Derek Harris

## £1,477m spending plan by UK brewers

By Our Commercial Editor

Britain's brewers are to invest £1.477m in the next three years, more than £850m of it in the retailing sector of the industry where it will be used to develop and improve public houses.

This was announced yesterday by Mr Derrick Holden-Brown, chairman of the Brewers' Society, who said the investment was being undertaken despite forecasts that the beer market would show marginally slower growth in the eighties compared with the past two decades. A growth of 2 per cent a year is expected, making a market of marginally over 50 million bulk barrels.

This year the brewers have revised their earlier forecasts down to 43.6 million bulk barrels. This takes account of the worsening economic conditions and expected customer

resistance over the recent round of price increases. But they are making the assumption that the summer will be better than the past two years.

This year brewery investment will be around £500m, half going into the retail trade and the rest into brewery plant and distribution. The 40 per cent balance of the three-year investment plan will also go into increasing brewery capacity and distribution improvements.

Much brewery investment has gone to increasing lager capacity which, if this growth market slowed, could still be used to brew ales or other beers.

Lager accounts for about 30 per cent of the market but some observers have been forecasting a slowdown. The take-home market in lager could be near saturation point, it has been suggested.

But Mr Holden-Brown said

lager continued to be the most important growth product, with segmentation into several lager types now happening. Premium grades were taking more of the market and sales of the lighter lagers were also growing in volume.



Mr Derrick Holden-Brown: Lager most important growth product.

## Watney forced to close beer bottling plant

Bottling of beer at the Raven Row, East London, plant of Watney Mann, part of Grand Metropolitan, is to stop in April with the loss of 300 jobs. Serious corrosion has been found in part of the metal skeleton of the 50-year-old building and repairs have been found to be impracticable. Raven Row is an important

bottling centre for Watney, and the company's other plants will be able to cope with only part of the shortfall in capacity. Until alternative capacity is created, 10 per cent of Watney bottling will be contracted out to other brewers.

Warehousing and distribution is to continue at Raven Row and there is no physical danger to workers in the bottling hall.

## 635 dockers to go on Merseyside

By R. W. Shakespeare

Another 635 Liverpool dockers will lose their jobs this year under a new voluntary severance plan which seems certain to be approved by a meeting of the National Docks Labour Board next week.

The scheme, which is supported by Mr Jimmy Sykes, docks district secretary of the Transport and General Workers Union, will cut the waterfront labour force on Merseyside to 4,800. At their peak the docks employed more than 16,000 men.

Last year 750 dockers left the port voluntarily, with redundancy payments of up to £8,500 for a man with 20 years service. The docks still have an average daily surplus of about 1,000 men.

## 'Difficult period' for Anglo-Soviet trade

Anglo-Russian trading relationships are entering a "very difficult" period because of the political repercussions of the events in Afghanistan, Mr John Smith, Opposition spokesman on trade, said in London yesterday at a meeting of the British-Soviet Chamber of Commerce.

Although the response of Western governments to Russia's intervention in Afghanistan was still being considered, the conclusion that there would be an adverse impact, particularly on Anglo-Soviet trade, had to be drawn, he said. At previous times of political difficulty—such as the early 1970s—this trade had deteriorated sharply.

There was a sense of pessimism about economic growth apparent in most countries and there was a danger this would exacerbate present difficulties.

It is important that the world's political leaders must remain committed to political détente between East and West so we can divert military expenditure into economic expansion."

Ways of improving trade needed to be considered. A closer examination into ways of improving the techniques of trading should be made to deal with factors like currency, compensation trading and cooperation agreements. Russia ought to consider directing Western investment into the Soviet Union, Mr Smith said.

**The year 1979**  
Comments by the Chairman, the Rt Hon Earl Jellicoe

"We have made significant progress with the major programme of rationalisation and renewal we have set for the Group. These tasks carry a heavy burden of related costs and we have had to conduct our operations in a trading environment which, in many areas, remains difficult."

"Our ability to generate adequate profits has, as a result, been limited. Group trading profit fell from £36.4 million in 1978 to £30.1 million, although the contribution from exceptional items enabled us to show a modest improvement at the pre-tax level, from £24.6 million to £26.2 million."

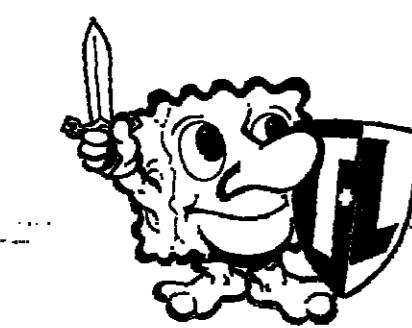
"It is important for EEC consumers and taxpayers as well as for our cane sugar refineries that the Common Market's wasteful over-production of sugar beet should be cut. We welcome the EEC Commission's proposals for the 1980/85 sugar regime."

"I stated last year that we should not expect to see any material improvement in our overall performance in the near future. Nevertheless, we are committed to pursuing vigorously programmes of action to restore Tate & Lyle to a more satisfactory level of profitability."

1979 1978  
Pre-tax profits £26.2m £24.6m

Dividends paid and proposed 10.5p 10.5p

Copies of the Annual Report for the year to 30th September 1979 will be mailed to shareholders shortly and will be available from J E Wright, Secretary, Tate & Lyle, Limited, Sugar Quay, Lower Thames Street, London EC3R 6DQ.



## LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

## Wrong thinking on pension plans

From the Chairman, the National Association of Pension Funds

Sir, Raymond Nottage's one-man campaign against funded pension schemes has taken a new turn with his article on January 14. His approach is so illogical and one-sided that it is hard to imagine it will be taken seriously by anyone, but perhaps we ought to set the record straight on a couple of points.

Last October the number of applications

awaiting approval at BASEEFA numbered 760. Only 30 per cent of the applications received during 1979 up to October had been cleared by then, and there were 46 per cent of the 1978 applications and 23 per cent of the 1977 applications still outstanding from the previous year.

The study group has already been told of one application still outstanding from 1977 when BASEEFA was established, but some applications are dealt with within six months.

Although there is no question in the industry about the high standing of BASEEFA's work there have been difficulties about delays almost from its inception.

One of the issues the study group will consider is whether staff should be increased, although the situation is regarded as being so serious that temporary arrangements with other testing facilities in this country are likely to be considered.

Equipment tested by BASEEFA covers

a wide range of items, from flame-proof

motors, switches and starters to under-

water flameproof television cameras. Much

of the equipment is used in petrochemical

installations, including oil rigs, and in

mines.

Because some of the equipment is heavy

it makes it difficult for companies to trans-

port BASEEFA and send products for test-

ing on the Continent. Hundreds of com-

panies are involved, from giants like the

General Electric Company to many smaller

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BY THE FINANCIAL EDITOR

## Gilts pause for breath

The gilt-edged market was showing distinct signs of cooling off yesterday. That is hardly surprising after the pace of the recent advance, and one could well argue that the market is now proving extremely resilient. There were signs yesterday, however, that overseas investors are not prepared to trust the market that far at this stage and some may have been taking their profits.

Certainly, overseas money represents a potentially destabilizing factor, so the market must now be crossing its fingers that the Government is going to end the steel strike in a way that is not going to cause a major upset in confidence—a consideration that cannot make it particularly easy for the authorities to decide whether or not to produce a new gilt issue this afternoon.

Meanwhile, the December money supply figures are much as expected, with sterling M3 rising 0.4 per cent to bring the annualized rate of growth after six months of the present target period to 11.4 per cent. After good gilt sales in January, it may well be that sterling M3 is now back inside the top end of the target range, but the authorities, quite wisely, are not yet prepared to accept that an improved trend has been firmly established. Noises coming out of the banks recently have not been particularly encouraging on the present trend in lending.

Gestetner

### A casualty of sterling

Gestetner is blaming much of the £7m drop to £19.1m in full year pre-tax profits on sterling's strength which has caused a straight £663,000 loss on the translation of overseas income but more punishingly forced the UK manufacturing operations supplying overseas subsidiaries foreign price increases just to maintain volume.

But the half-year figures have shown a progressively deteriorating trend over the last three years with the latest six months almost two-thirds down at £7.7m. And worries that Gestetner is now saddled with an out-of-date product line are starting to have more substance.

It is still pointing to only a 1 per cent fall in the latest year as an indication that the stencil market is not over the hill. Gestetner has been slow to respond to the challenge of plain paper copiers, which still only account for 13 per cent of its sales, from Japan. The balance sheet is already starting to see some of the strains from this reduced profitability with retentions more than halved after a £4.6m exchange loss—£6.1m liquid funds down £1m at £23m and borrowings £6m higher to finance higher stocks and debtors.

Gestetner is now looking a classic example of a company that has been slow to change. With profits heading lower for the third year on the trot, it would look like ideal bid material were it not protected by the non-voting shares. The shares dropped 3p to 73p yesterday where they yield 10.4 per cent.

Dixons

### Back to basics

Even a 70 per cent boost in property dealing profits to £1.2m has not saved Dixons Photographic from another lack-luster showing at the half-year stage: profits up 7.5 per cent at £5.9m disappointed the market and left the shares 8p lower at 97p.

Once again the Westons pharmaceuticals side proved a villain of the piece turning in a fractional loss against last time's £365,000 profit, but Dixons overseas profits dipped by more than a quarter to £1m as a result of product delays.

However, profits from the Dixons shops, selling audio equipment, cameras and so forth, jumped more than a fifth to £2.4m. Now, with the disposal of Westons shops near completion, Dixons could have at last removed a significant brake on its performance although it is still left with a slumped down wholesale pharmaceuticals operation.

Pressure on consumer spending could now slow progress and trading has been quiet since Christmas. Full-year profits of £12.5m against last year's £10.7m seem likely, though the electronics revolution

over the next few years fully justifies a growth rating reflected in the likely yield of under 5 per cent.

Turner &amp; Newall

### Rhodesian possibilities

Turner and Newall has discovered that its two Rhodesian subsidiaries have increased net assets by £86m to £92m during the fourteen years since UDI. This is significant for two reasons. First, it acknowledges the potential importance to T & N of its Rhodesian asbestos interests at a time when profits growth has shown signs of pressure.

Second, the reconsolidation plan which includes a 1980 profit forecast of £12m, including £333,000 from the previously unknown gold mines, fits in with T & N's policy of telling shareholders as much as possible about the Rhodesian assets and it is now understandably anxious to show how the local operation fared.

But the group does not shy away from the enormous variables that still exist with the forthcoming March election, the threat of continued war and the possibility that inflation will damage profit margins in future.

All this pushed the shares up by 8p to 142p where the yield is still 11.4 per cent. That suggests that the Rhodesian bonus—admittedly a possibility rather than a probability at this stage—is in for nothing.

Grand Met.

### Time for consolidation

Last summer's opportunistic £78m rights issue coupled with a high level of retentions and despite capital spending of around £125m has brought Grand Metropolitan's gearing down from 66 per cent to 42 per cent. That together with a set of 1979 figures, showing profits on an adjusted basis up from £116m to £139m, and the prospect

of perhaps £150m this year suggests that Grand Met is among the best lock-away Blue Chip stocks for the next couple of years.

Moreover, with an 8.214p a share gross dividend, reflecting the final promised at the rights, covered 33 times there is plenty of scope for a good dividend increase for 1980 when others may find it difficult. Beyond that Grand Met, supported by its heavy capital spending programme over the past few years, will be able to take advantage of growth opportunities when they occur.

A period of consolidation is ahead, then, with a 5.8 per cent yield at 140p to go on with and no obvious reason why the stability should be upset. Hotels, where room rates are lower than average and where a number of major refurbishments have been carried out, should cope with slower business.

Margins have improved on milk and food: the brewery business is gaining market share and wines and spirits would have done even better but for the impact of strong sterling and a weak dollar on US earnings. That leaves gambling where Grand Met must be a beneficiary from the demise of Ladbrokes' London casinos.

## Business Diary: Pipe of peace? • Singalong trooie

Phase II-Trooiesongs

• A souvenir that many British businessmen are now bringing back from Southern Rhodesia at present is a record made in South Africa by John Edmond (above).

Edmond has cornered the Rhodesian market in "Trooie songs" or barrack-room ditties that can be sung either to or by servicemen patrolling the borders and rural districts—or can be listened to by their families and their sweethearts at home.

He has a pleasant, light tenor voice and a nimble grasp of pop music styles that can rise above the rugged and occasionally blood-thirsty tone of his lyrics.

For instance, there is a cypso-style song from his Phase II album which deals with infiltration over the Zambezi River by "terri"—or terrorist/freedom fighters, depending on your politics—whose words can be adapted for singing for almost any unit in the Rhodesian forces.

It's called *The Happy Safari*,

to pitch for the account.

and goes thus:

"I saw a Hippoameus  
He was making lots of fuss  
There was something stuck in  
his throat  
It was a terr in a blow-up  
boat."

Shops in Salisbury were just about emptied of Edmond's records over Christmas, although what tune he will be singing after February's one-man, one-vote elections remains to be seen.

Competition on Madison Avenue for the advertising account about to be awarded by De Lorean Motor Company has been intense. In the summer De Lorean will start producing 8,000 sports cars from a new plant in west Belfast with infiltration over the Zambezi River by "terri"—or terrorist/freedom fighters, depending on your politics—whose words can be adapted for singing for almost any unit in the Rhodesian forces.

It's called *The Happy Safari*,

to pitch for the account.

• After a decade in which the deputy governors of the West German Federal Bank have made more of a name for themselves abroad than at home, the number two post in Frankfurt is once again in the possession of a man who is a specialist on domestic monetary affairs.

Dr Helmut Schlesinger has taken over as deputy to Federal Bank president Karl Otto Poehl from the beginning of this year.

Unlike his job-hopping chief, the 55-year-old Schlesinger has long been one of the key figures in the "engine room" of the Federal Bank. His career in Frankfurt stretches back to 1952 when he joined the Bank Deutscher Länder, the forerunner of the present bank.

Throughout he has been associated with the economics and statistical department and is the Federal Bank's guru on monetary policy. In this latter capacity he can claim to have had a strong indirect influence on recent economic and political history in Britain, as our conversion to money supply theory led a good deal to the West German example.

The new chief cashier is also a cousin of HM the Queen via the Duke of Wellington's family to whom the Queen Mother is related. Noteworthy, also?

Royalty joining the union ranks? Apparently this has happened in Brighton. Prince Will Umar, next in line to be chief of the 2,000-strong Akwamu tribe in Ghana has been recruited into the Fire Brigades Union after qualifying yesterday as a fireman.

Ross Davies

High-level talks on the economy took place in Copenhagen last night

## Can the Danes pull back from the brink?

An urgent meeting of Danish parliamentarians took place last night to discuss the plight of the country's economy after yet another gloomy prophecy, delivered this time by none less than Mr Erik Hoffmeyer, the governor of the Danish National Bank.

The meeting of the Danish Parliamentary Committee on Economic Policy coincides with the return of the Folketing (Danish parliament) after the Christmas recess and signals in all probability the beginning of the next phase of Denmark's economic crisis.

That Denmark, a stable, democratic state with efficient industry and agriculture, with a near impeccable welfare state and with one of the highest standards of living in the world (the highest in the EEC), should be embroiled in such a crisis must appear bizarre to the outside observer.

To all intents and purposes the country seems to be running smoothly. But that is on the surface. The sad fact is that Denmark is now regarded as economically irresponsible. Mr Hoffmeyer said, "Our credibility erodes when our politicians explain year after year that they have plans to reduce our deficit and it transpires that the deficit remains the same or grows even bigger."

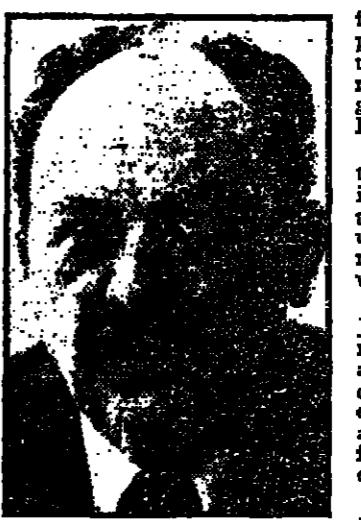
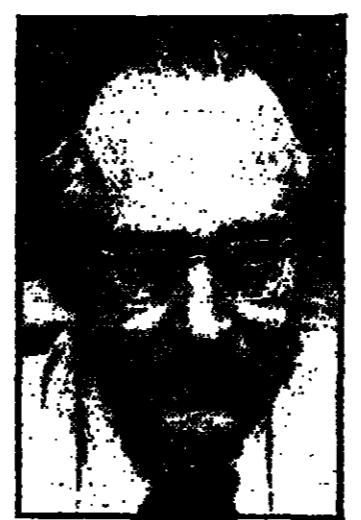
The last three steps towards economic recovery are, according to Mr Hoffmeyer, that the Danish economy will have to be administered by the European Economic Community and/or the IMF, after which private creditors will refuse to grant the country loans, resulting in the final collapse of the social welfare system and political instability.

After last night's meeting Mr Anker Joergensen, the Prime Minister, said that he basically agreed with Mr Hoffmeyer's statement, while the government would wait until the next Economic Council report in March before deciding on further action.

It was also autumn that it finally began to dawn on the Danes that they were heading for the brink.

In a now historic television interview in October, the outgoing Social Democratic Finance Minister Mr Knud Heinesen, now chairman of the party's parliamentary group, predicted that the country was inexorably set on a ride towards the economic abyss. He put the nadir a mere three years away, unless something drastic was done.

Denmark relies on oil for about 80 per cent of its energy requirements and is thus vulnerable. With no natural re-



Mr Erik Hoffmeyer (left), governor of the Danish National Bank, whose gloomy economic forecast has brought fresh problems for Mr Anker Joergensen (right), the Prime Minister. ..

sources of its own, and as yet meagre returns from the North Sea (although 30 per cent of its domestic energy needs could well be satisfied from that source by the late 80s). Denmark pays about 15,000m crowns a year for imported oil, roughly the same figure as its deficit last year.

The government started taking drastic action last autumn—imposing the toughest economic squeeze in Danish history. After the fall of the 13-month-old Social Democratic-Liberals coalition government headed by Mr Joergensen of Premier Anker Joergensen, the Social Democrats won the subsequent October elections, the fifth in eight years. Mr Joergensen—his party with 68 seats in the 179-member Folketing—formed a minority government.

To these elements were linked economic democracy measures including the introduction of a compulsory profit-sharing scheme for workers and worker-controlled investment funds—the price the LO (trade union federation) has with no absolute majority and nine bickering parties to contend with in parliament, it has proved difficult—if not impossible—from the government

possible—for Mr Joergensen to get the necessary economic measures passed.

After the imposition of a two-month total price, dividends and incomes freeze and a brist 5 per cent devaluation of the crown—the first unilateral Danish devaluation, as opposed to adjustment, since 1945—the new government bravely presented an 18-point economic austerity package to parliament.

The package consisted of a prolongation of the prices and incomes curb until March, 1981; increases in capitalized pension, corporation, property and wealth taxes; tax redistribution reforms and adjustments to the wage indexation system (geared to consumer prices) to squeeze pay rises further.

With no absolute majority and nine bickering parties to contend with in parliament, it has proved difficult—if not impossible—from the government

for support for its incomes policy. Opposition in parliament to the economic democracy measures was so great that the government very nearly fell in December.

Fearing that they would give the LO more power, both leftist and rightist parties opposed the economic democracy measures, which Mr Joergensen had made an inextricable part of the whole package.

In a surprising volte face, Mr. Joergensen saved his government at the eleventh hour, avoiding January elections, by dropping the controversial economic democracy measures and watered down the incomes freeze to allow for a 10 per cent ceiling on wages.

The unions' federation was astonished by the move, which has led to a major rift between LO leader Thomas Nielsen and the Social Democrats. It was thus the watered down Bill that was passed by parliament just before Christmas—at about the same time as the meeting in Caracas of the Organization of Petroleum Exporting Countries with its subsequent oil price rises—itself a cruel blow to the oil.

It is now doubtful that the Christmas package will suffice. In its revised form it represents an inadequate prescription for staving off the country's economic woes.

Mr Svend Jakobsen, the Danish finance minister, had even before Mr Hoffmeyer's warnings—predicted the need for further stringent economic medicine in the autumn of 1980. This date would seem to be about to be brought dramatically forward by the crown within the European Monetary System and a fresh package of economic measures. Cuts in public spending and increases in taxes on drink and tobacco with a possible increase of VAT, now running at a 20.25 per cent across the board are expected in all likelihood before Easter.

Christopher Follett

## Keeping the home loan door open—at a price

Margaret Stone

The halcyon days of cheap mortgages have gone for good: the five million borrowers shuddering under the impact of a 15.25 per cent mortgage interest rate, if not more, are looking for comfort in the Stow report on mortgage finance in the 1980s, published yesterday by the Building Societies Association.

The thrust of the report is that there is no real alternative source of funds to the personal sector; and that the personal sector will not cough up sufficient money to meet demand unless the societies can offer a genuinely competitive rate of interest to both the existing 25 million investors in the movement and potential recruits.

The report acknowledges that, "with the recent large increases in MLR to 17 per cent, societies cannot move immediately to a fully competitive position as this would impose an undue burden on existing borrowers".

However, if MLR is reduced, societies will be able to regain their competitiveness by maintaining their current rates. If the general level of interest rates does not fall, or if it rises further, then a further increase in building society rates will need to be considered.

Because attention is usually focussed on the borrower it is often overlooked that it is the rate paid to investors which, in fact, sets the pace for the mortgage interest rate. This is the rate which needs to be made competitive, the report argues. But what it fails to do is to define what is a competitive interest rate for societies.

At the moment, building societies are offering investors 15 per cent (the grossed up equivalent of the 10.5 per cent share rate) which is the same

as the return on bank deposits, National Savings Bank investment accounts, and better than the yield on gilts of all lengths and the return on the new issue of National Savings certificates which go on sale next month.

In short, what the building societies mean by competitive is not merely competitive, but super-competitive. To attract such a huge volume of funds—£510m net a month this year rising to an estimated £680m by 1983—the societies need a very distinct edge over their rivals in the personal savings market.

Traditionally, the building societies share rate used to be two points higher than bank deposit rate; today, a 1.5 to 1 point above local authority three-month money rate, at present around 17 per cent, is considered desirable.

In practice this means that interest rates in general have to fall by around 3 per cent before societies would consider their present rate structure sufficiently competitive to clear the mortgage queues.

But even the most devoted fan of term shares would admit that such greater emphasis in future is going to be placed on the development of term shares. For a long time, the building society industry has prided itself on its ability to borrow short and lend long—thus breaking the first rule of prudent banking—but no

longer. The longer money sticks with a society the less it needs.

Research by the Provincial Building Society shows that when money is held for a mere seven days, then £16m is needed to finance one average mortgage of £12,000 for 25 years; money held for six months means a requirement of £600,000 to fund a £12,000 mortgage for 25 years; money which sticks for a year, means that only £300,000 is needed; and if it is held for four years, then only £72,000 is needed to fund that £12,000 mortgage over 25 years.

Term shares (from one to five years) now account for 13 per cent of the societies' balances, and the indications are that as much as £30m net a month will be raised for the same average cost of funds.

Meantime, there can be doubt that much greater emphasis in future will be placed on the development of term shares. For a long time, the building society industry has prided itself on its ability to borrow short and lend long—thus breaking the first rule of prudent banking—but no

longer. The longer money sticks with a society the less it needs.

There is an analogy between the momentum of a large tanker when it is under way and that of the process of international law-making. Neither the ship nor its legal process can turn around once a particular course has been set.

Thus the next stage in the implementation of international maritime safety regulations will be the adoption next May of the 1974 Convention on the Safety of Life at Sea (SOLAS). This will reflect only the pre-Amoco Cadiz improvements in steering gear—but IMCO's later work on revised requirements will be reviewed in May and provision is being made to implement them reasonably quickly. IMCO's Maritime Safety Committee is preparing an up-to-date list of recommendations and enough time for outcome will depend on the main lines of thought on the new measures that will be proposed.

## FINANCIAL NEWS AND MARKET REPORTS

Eurotherm  
10 pc rise  
fails to  
please

Profits of Eurotherm International, the electronic temperature control group which came to market nearly 20 months ago, got a cool reception from the stock market yesterday.

Although sales advanced 23 per cent to £21.6 million—more than half came from overseas—pre-tax profits were only 10 per cent ahead at £2.9 million.

The shares, which were 88 times oversubscribed when the group was floated and have changed hands at 370p in the last year, dropped 4p to 29p. Pressure on profits growth would have been increased further had Turnbull Control Systems not turned a £300,000 loss into a £300,000 profit.

But against that, there were management problems with their company in France, which contributes 10 per cent to group sales.

Changes have been made, but the group estimates it will take a year before the operation can resume the sort of profits growth Eurotherm has come to expect. In addition the results would have been £200,000 higher but for the strength of sterling.

Dr Jack Leonard, the group managing director, said: "Profitability is not as large as we would have liked to show the world, but we have no problems that we feel we are not in control of, and we see no reason why the current year will not produce further satisfactory results."

The final dividend is 4.28p, giving a total of 6.426p against an interim last time of 3.82p.

Berisford held back  
by dull markets

By Michael Prest

Flat commodities market in the second half, with cocoa especially dull, held back profits at S & W Berisford, the merchandising group, to £32.2m, an increase of less than 11m.

Interest charges were about half as much again as last year, partly because of slower turnover, and partly because of higher interest rates. Dividends paid by customers holding on to their shares and taking advantage of the high interest rates was also a factor.

The company has enjoyed a spectacular growth record. In the decade to September 31, 1978, the end of the previous financial year, earnings grew at an average annual compound rate of 50 per cent. Mr N. G. Hanson, the company's finance director, says this growth cannot be expected to continue indefinitely.

While commodities, mainly soft ones, constitute about two-thirds of pre-tax profits, the other major contributors are food and drink, and metals. Both showed reasonable progress over the year with the metals sector benefiting from strong aluminium prices. Mr Hanson warned, however, that the steel strike, if prolonged, could bite into these profits.

Analysts regard Berisford as a company with high exposure to fluctuations in commodity markets. It keeps a level book, without much hedging, and therefore depends mainly on turnover.

Group turnover was £2.170m from £1.341m in 1978. The final dividend is 10.7143 gross, an increase of 55.8 per cent over last year for shareholders who retained their shares when the group's capital was raised by 10 per cent. The dividend is covered 3.78 times on earnings per share of 28.37p. The shares were unchanged at 146p.

Wild commodities, mainly

## Wigfall debt charge move

By Alison Mitchell

Television rental group Henry Wigfall may be about to come to an arrangement with a finance house to lift the weight of interest charges from the profit and loss account.

In the 28 weeks to October 13 interest amounted to £1.3m against a previous £900,000 and with borrowings currently touching £10m this figure will be considerably higher at the year end.

Wigfall currently finances all its own debt and rental business and Mr Richard Morrell, managing director, admitted 9.2 per cent.

## Royco's ex-chief wins control

By Our Financial Staff  
Jersey-based millionaire property developer Mr Roy Strudwick, former chairman of building group Royco, is bidding to take over the outstanding part of the company he does not already own.

Yesterday morning Bonnepark, a subsidiary of Mr Strudwick's company Supreme Investments, announced that it had acquired a 40.95 per cent holding in Royco and was offering 50p a share for the balance of the equity. However, two-hour buying spree in the market, where the shares opened at 41p, brought the Bonnepark stake up to 50.02 per cent giving it control.

At 50p a share Royco is valued at £10m.



Mr Roy H. Strudwick, former chairman of Royco.

## Reorganization at Philips

Philips Lamps, the Dutch electrical glass, is to reorganize its factories in the Netherlands as a cost running into "tens of millions of guilders".

The factories involved, which make up the Elcom and Glass divisions, are primarily manufacturers of electronic components, particularly integrated circuits and micro-technology.

The company says the reorganization, which will take several years, is intended to restore loss-making factories to profitability. Jobs should also be protected, although total employment in the factories will fall by about 1,500 over the next three or four years.

Philips faces intense competition from Japanese companies and is determined to stay in business as a major international electronics company. The restructuring is one way of meeting the competition.

**Standard, California**

A financial officer for Standard Oil of California expects the company's fourth-quarter (1979) profits will show an increase of 70 to 75 per cent on 1978.

Mr Howard W. Bell, the firm's financial vice-president, said earnings a share for the full year of \$10.50 to \$11 would be a "good guess".

Through the first nine months of 1979, the company earned \$1,330m, or 57.82 a share, on sales of \$22,000m.

**Generale Occidentale**

Attributable net consolidated profit of Generale Occidentale was 76m francs in the six months to end-September, 1979, while the parent company's net profit was 5.17m francs. No comparisons are available because of the change in the dates of the company's financial year.

For the previous accounting period of July 1, 1978, to March 31, 1979, the attributable net consolidated profit was 80.34m francs and the parent company's net profit 31.8m francs.

**Kitchen Queen AGM**

In the absence of Mr Johnson...

In spite of the abrupt departure, less than 24 hours earlier of Mr Neville Johnson, chairman and chief executive—he having disposed of 8.5 million shares for £900,000—the first annual general meeting of Kitchen Queen in Manchester, yesterday passed off in 13 minutes with barely a raised eyebrow, let alone a raised voice.

Indeed, but for the presence of Mr Johnson's brother, Joel, there would have been no comment whatever from the floor at the meeting attended by just over 100 shareholders.

Mr Leonard Morris, who has assumed the chairmanship, and along with his business associate, Mr Jim Bentham, executive management responsible for the company, made it clear from the outset that he had no intention of going beyond the public statement about Mr Johnson's resignation made the previous day—a decision, which no one present seemed in the least inclined to challenge.

Mr Morris, making his first appearance as chairman of a public company, and apologizing for his lack of experience in the role, said in the past 10 days it had become clear from management information and figures, that during November and December losses were being incurred in the retailing and manufacturing division, against the optimistic forecasts contained in the chairman's statement.

Mr Johnson's statement in the annual report and accounts was subsequently approved on the nod.

Mr Morris said: "In those circumstances, Mr Johnson felt it was his responsibility to resign."

"In view of the trading situation within the group and in view of the 12 years'

## Stock markets

## Light profit taking as equities wait for lead

After a 50 point rise in a fortnight and Wednesday's biggest one-day jump since last April, the FT 30 index constituents had a breather. Light profit taking remained light and buyers were still around.

There were losses throughout the list in gilt edged too after weakness at the start of business, but once again there was little weight behind the selling.

It can hardly be said that the trade returns, the threat of a water strike, the growing bitterness of the steel dispute or the latest money supply figures had an impact.

**Yester** **sent** **at** **190n** **after** **Wednesday's** **17p** **fall** **from** **gains**

The acquisition of 51 per cent of Hovermarine Transport by its shareholders who retained their shares when the group's capital was raised by 10 per cent. The dividend is covered 3.78 times on earnings per share of 28.37p. The shares were unchanged at 146p.

Analysts regard Berisford as a company with high exposure to fluctuations in commodity markets. It keeps a level book, without much hedging, and therefore depends mainly on turnover.

Group turnover was £2.170m from £1.341m in 1978. The final dividend is 10.7143 gross, an increase of 55.8 per cent over last year for shareholders who retained their shares when the group's capital was raised by 10 per cent.

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## FINANCIAL NEWS AND MARKET REPORTS

## Western Deep profits up 58 pc

Profits at Western Deep Levels, a gold mine in the Anglo American group and one of the most highly geared in South Africa, shot up by 58 per cent to R61.8m (£34.3m) on the back of record gold prices.

The average gold price received at the mine rose from \$317.6 an ounce in the September quarter to \$100 more in the December quarter.

But this was far and away the most spectacular result in this latest batch of quarterly figures from the South African mines. Other mines saw potentially heavy profits vanish. President Brand, and Free State Sasolipol actually saw profits fall, while most of the mines in the group had profits increases of between 17 and 20 per cent.

The highest gold price received was at South African Land & Exploration with a price of \$436.5. Uranium was important at Ergo, contributing R8.43m out of total profits of R13.5m.

Costs rose slightly, while grades were held almost steady. The pattern is thus very similar to that reported by other mines, which have seen gold prices, and pretax profits rocket, but after-tax profits held back by tax rates reaching over 70 per cent at the margin in some cases.

A majority of the mines have adapted to higher gold prices, however, by lowering output. Among the mines with noticeably lower production during the quarter were Vaal Reefs, Free State, Geduld, Western Holdings, and Welkom.

## Recent Issues

Bi-monthly. Closing Price. Last date of issue. Price in parentheses. £ per tonne. £ per tonne paid. £ per tonne paid + 10% paid.

## Wall Street

New York, Jan 17.—Stock prices ended in late afternoon trading on modern profit taking. Declining issue led the market down by 715 to 578, with 265 unchanged.

The Dow Jones industrial average was off 1.62 to 863.57. It had been up more than four points at its best.

New York Stock Exchange volume dropped to 54,170,000 shares from yesterday's second-highest total of 57,700,000.

Precious metals stocks surged again as gold bullion prices topped \$800.

## Gold tops \$800

New York, Jan 17.—GOLD prices closed above \$800 on heavy foreign buying. Commodity futures also rose, fueling the trading at \$748.50-\$800, after an unprecedented \$748.50-\$800, after an unprecedented

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# Appointments Vacant



## BOUGAINVILLE COPPER LIMITED

The Company operates a 98,000 TPD Concentrator on Bougainville Island in Papua New Guinea. The process flowsheet includes crushing, grinding, flotation, thickening, 26km concentrate pipeline, filtering, drying and associated support activities. Available facilities include well equipped metallurgical and mineralogical laboratories, and a comprehensive on-site analytical service.

The Concentrator Division comprises five departments, viz — Crusher, Mill, Metallurgical Services, Engineering Services and Analytical Services.

The Metallurgical Services department provides a routine trouble shooting service to the operating plants, plans and predicts current to enhance the Company's technical and economic position.

Current development projects include:

- Recovery of gold from tailings
- By-product recovery of molybdenum from concentrate
- Waste dump leaching
- Process control/computerisation

BOUGAINVILLE COPPER LIMITED HAS AN INNOVATIVE, TECHNICAL APPROACH AND SEEKS MEN WITH A SIMILAR OUTLOOK.

## SENIOR METALLURGISTS

Enthusiastic, experienced Senior Metallurgists are required to co-ordinate and direct the activities of a team of Project Metallurgists involved in research and development of the Company's Metallurgical operations.

They should hold a Degree or Diploma in Mineral Processing/Technology, Metallurgy, Applied Technology, Chemical Engineering or a related field with at least five years relevant experience being essential. A minimum of two years' supervisory experience is desirable. They will report to the Chief Metallurgist.

## METALLURGISTS

Vacancies exist for metallurgists to participate in the metallurgical research and development of the Company's operations. Successful applicants could expect to be involved in short term shift work as part of their professional development and during pilot plant investigations.

They should hold a Degree or Diploma in Mineral Processing/Technology, Metallurgy, Applied Technology, Chemical Engineering or a related field with two years' relevant experience. Some supervisory experience would be an advantage. They will report to a Senior Metallurgist.

AN ATTRACTIVE SALARY WILL BE NEGOTIATED AND IS SUBJECT TO AN AREA ALLOWANCE OF 30% OF BASE SALARY

Conditions and benefits related to the position will be discussed at interview but would include:

- Permanent or contract (2 years) appointment
- Air fares and removal costs paid to Bougainville on appointment
- Five week's annual leave with return fares to Australia
- Modern housing or single accommodation provided at reasonable cost.

The towns of Arawa on the coast, and Panguna at the mine site, are modern with supermarkets, taverns, restaurants, primary schools, private medical and dental services. Sporting facilities include squash and tennis courts, golf course with grass greens, swimming, fishing and sailing. There is a regular air service to Melbourne. Over eight hundred expatriate employees plus families live in the towns.

Applications quoting Reference No. W280 and setting out full details of qualifications and experience should be addressed to:

Mr I L Williams

**Concinc Riotinto of Australia Limited**

GPO Box 384D, Melbourne, Vic 3001 Australia.



**BOUGAINVILLE COPPER**

## On Valentine's Day let The Times make something of your sweet nothings.

On February 14th it's not only what you say, but how you say it that matters.

And, when you think about it, a Valentine Card says very little indeed.

Could such a missive ever convey the feelings of one whose very being is in the grips of an all-consuming passion?

We think not.

Worse still, the custom of omitting one's name could lead to some confusion. And, unthinkable though it may be, even lead your sweetheart into the arms of another.

Heaven forbid.

The answer is to place a message in the Valentine's page of The Times.

Don't be shy. You'll be in the company

of the country's greatest lovers. But should words fail you, you'll be relieved to know that The Times is right here to support you.

Included in our price is a bound, sealed, illustrated volume of poems simply called 'Love'. Tender moments from the lives of Thomas Hardy, Robert Graves, Adrian Henri and many others.

And we'll ensure that it reaches your loved one before February 14th with a card that reads 'There's a message for you in The Times on Valentine's Day'.

To place a message costs £3.00 per line with a minimum of three lines (count 28 characters including word spaces per line).

So be bold. Proclaim your love before the nation.

After all, all the world loves a lover.

Published by Unison.

Send your message together with a cheque (minimum £9) made payable to Times Newspapers Ltd, to Mr John Perry, Department ASA, 4th Floor, The Times, New Printing House Square, Gray's Inn Road, London WC1X 8EZ.

Place your message here (block capitals)

Name of Sender

Address

Telephone

Name of proposed recipient

Address

**THE TIMES**

## VACANCY FOR SECRETARY

To the Territorial, Auxiliary and Volunteer Reserve Association for the West Midlands

1. Applications are invited for the Secretaryship of the Territorial, Auxiliary and Volunteer Reserve Association for the West Midlands based at Birmingham and covering the counties of Hereford and Worcester, Shropshire, Staffordshire, Warwickshire and West Midlands Metropolitan. The post will become vacant on the 16 February 1981 and the successful applicant may be required to understudy the present Secretary for one month before taking over.
2. Applicants should, preferably, have Service Staff experience of at least Grade 1 level (or equivalent) and have reached the age of 45, but not have reached the age of 56, as at 15 February 1981, unless now employed by a Territorial, Auxiliary and Volunteer Reserve Association. The present salary is £9,296 per annum.
3. The appointment is for a probationary period of 18 months in the first instance after which it may be confirmed to the age of 60, with further extensions of one year up to the age of 65, subject to satisfactory annual reports. The successful candidate will be required to pass a medical examination and to contribute to the superannuation fund.
4. Application forms may be obtained from the Secretary, West Midland TAVR Association, Tennal Grange, Tennal Road, Harborne, Birmingham B32 2HX. Completed forms must reach the Association by 11 March 1980.
5. No testimonials or similar documents should be sent until asked for. All applications received will be acknowledged. Any form of canvassing will lead to immediate disqualification.

## Appointment of General Manager

Washington Development Corporation

£17,740-£20,582 per annum

The post of General Manager, Washington Development Corporation, will become vacant from 1st July 1980 on the retirement of the present holder, Mr. W. S. Holley, CBE, DL. The salary scale will be £17,740-£20,582. Washington Development Corporation is responsible for the development of Washington New Town, now the most flourishing growth area in the North East of England. The general development of the town is nearing completion and the future role of the Corporation will be primarily concerned with industrial and commercial

Washington Development Corporation

This advertisement appears with the agreement of the New Town Staff Committee.

## GENERAL VACANCIES

BRITISH-RUN COMPANY with major berths on French canals, requires Engineers and cabin officers for 1980 season. Please write to Mr. G. J. Parker, 30, Parker's Court, 9, Belgrave, Belgrave, London SW1.

SKI INSTRUCTORS wanted, part-time, Scotland. Ring: Dave, 01-940-7762.

## GENERAL VACANCIES

ADMINISTRATOR, buyer for small very busy construction contracts for leading City stockbroker. £1,500 plus very good bonus. 21/2 years experience. Tel. 01-353 7646.

MANAGER/ESS required for Kings Head Public House, 179, Upper St., Islington, London N1. Tel. 01-353 7646.

## GENERAL VACANCIES

BOUGHT AND SOLD tranship char. for leading City stockbroker. £1,500 plus very good bonus. 21/2 years experience. Tel. 01-353 7646.

REPRESENTATIVES required to work for our own company, Cardiff, from April-October. Tel. 01-602 1840.

## Trinidad & Tobago

Ministry of Health

## Registrar & House Officer

Applications are invited from suitably qualified persons for appointment to the post of Registrar, Range 62 and House Officer, Range 56G in the Ministry of Health. Particulars relating to the posts are as follows:—

### Registrar

Salary range 62: £3,274 per month. Applicants must possess:—

- a medical qualification registrable with the General Council in the United Kingdom and with the Medical Board of Trinidad and Tobago;
- an approved higher qualification with three (3) years post graduate experience in the speciality; or
- a total of six (6) years approved post-graduate experience (including pre-registration internship) of which three years must be in the speciality.

### House Officer

Salary Range 56G: £2,562 per month.

Training as evidenced by a recognised medical degree is required and the successful completion of one year's internship at a General Hospital and registration as a Medical Practitioner by the Medical Board of Trinidad and Tobago.

Only applications received in response to this advertisement will be considered: persons who have applied previously, and who still wish to be considered for appointment to this post are accordingly advised to re-apply.

Further particulars relating to the post, and application forms are obtainable from Trinidad and Tobago High Commission, 42 Belgrave Square, London SW1X 8NT. Tel. 01-245 9351.

Closing date for applications: 2nd February 1980.

## LEGAL APPOINTMENTS

## DEPUTY JUDGE ADVOCATE

The Lord Chancellor invites applications for appointment as Deputy Judge Advocate, in the Office of the Judge Advocate General of the Forces, from barristers of England and Wales or Northern Ireland and from members of the faculty of advocates in Scotland; in all cases of not less than 5 years' standing.

Applicants must have a sound knowledge of English criminal law and the laws of evidence and experience of practice in the criminal courts. A practical knowledge of service life and traditions and of the procedure of Courts-Martial is desirable. Applicants must be prepared to serve overseas. The salary attached to the appointment is £10,350, rising to a maximum of £12,750, plus £280 Inner London Weighting.

Applications are invited, not later than 7th March, 1980, to the Principal Establishment Officer, Lord Chancellor's Department, Neville House, Page Street, London SW1P 4LS. Application forms will be provided on request to that address, or by telephone to 01-211 8044.

## GENERAL VACANCIES

### SALES EXECUTIVE

required by the Egon Ronay Organisation

(Greencourt House, Francis Street, London, S.W.1)

for marketing range of guides, annuals and other publications in the field of travel, gastronomy, leisure, sport, fashion, art, architecture, etc. Book trade experience, book and travel knowledge, and dependability on originality, enthusiasm and reliability. Good telephone and writing skills. Good knowledge of computers and experience in correspondence.

Starting salary £1,200 per annum.

## PUBLIC AND EDUCATIONAL APPOINTMENTS

University of Durham

DEPARTMENT OF CHEMISTRY

Applications are invited for a

### TEMPORARY LECTURESHIP IN PHYSICAL CHEMISTRY

available for two years.

The successful candidate will be expected to teach, either from the spectroscopic or molecular orbital point of view, or both, and to prepare undergraduate teaching of modern topics in the field of physical chemistry.

Salary on the scale £2,442 (£2,642 under review) plus superannuation.

Applications, naming three referees, should be sent by 1st March, 1980 to the Secretary, Department of Chemistry, South Bank University, London SE1 1AB.

The successful candidate will be required to teach, either from the spectroscopic or molecular orbital point of view, or both, and to prepare undergraduate teaching of modern topics in the field of physical chemistry.

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## Motoring

### How to curb danger from farm trailers

My recent piece on the possible safety hazard presented by agricultural trailers not carrying direction indicator lights has produced strong reactions and it appears that the anxiety about unit trailers may be widely shared.

The item was prompted by the experience of a reader who was driving along a country road behind a trailer being towed by a tractor. Thinking the way ahead was clear, he pulled out to overtake but as he did so the tractor turned right and a collision was inevitable. My correspondent was unable to face a £400 bill for repairs to his car.

He argues that the accident would probably not have happened had the law required unit trailers to fit indicator lights. The tractor did have such lights, but the width of the trailer made them impossible to see from behind. It is doubtful whether hand signals by the tractor driver would have been visible either.



Lively small hatchback—the Fiat Strada

Support for a change in the law comes from Professor P. J. Yarrow, of Newcastle upon Tyne University. His daughter, riding a motor cycle behind a tractor and trailer, had also started to overtake when the tractor turned right without visible warning. The machine was wrecked and the girl suffered a broken knee.

Mr Geoffrey Perrott, from Ross-on-Wye, tells of a similar accident involving his son, who was badly injured. Mr Perrott says tractors and trailers are often encountered on the rural roads in his area and he gives several reasons why he considers them a hazard.

One is that a slow-moving tractor can misjudge the relative speed of other traffic. Secondly, narrow country lanes prevent a tractor from indicating its intentions by its position on the road. A tractor can

turn as sharply as a London taxi and when hand signals are used the hand has to be withdrawn just before turning to work the steering wheel.

Yet another traleiner accident is recalled by Mr Kenneth Scarman, from Banchory, Kincardineshire, who submits that trailers could be fitted with temporary lighting boards in the same way as caravans. Failing that, tractors could have lighting boards so wide that they always cleared the trailer.

Mr Nigel Earle, a farmer from Swell, Northampton, does use lighting boards on his trailers, which are 5ft 6in wide, with rear, stop and indicator lights, reflective triangles and the space for number plates.

But he says that the boards are not easy to fix and he points out that neither tractor indicators nor their bulbs appear to be standardized and that spares can be difficult to find.

He favours the American system of having twin orange high intensity lights fore and aft on the roof of the tractor cab which can be used either as direction indicators or as warning lights. He says such lights should be instantly visible from behind, though, not, I would have thought, if the trailer had a very high load.

Mr Earle also has an accident to recount, though one for which he firmly blames the motorist concerned. He says: "Being rather old, I can remember being ordered out to a road accident involving any vehicle in front and to pull our in good time before overtaking."

The official attitude is not dissimilar. The Department of Transport says the onus is on the motorist to take special care when encountering agricultural vehicles on the road. Both Miss Yarrow and Mr Perrott had to face court proceedings. Miss Yarrow was acquitted of dangerous driving but Mr Perrott, who covers 20,000 miles a year on a motor cycle and had a clean record, was fined and had his licence endorsed.

Tractors are also exempt from having to fit direction indicators, though the Government is considering a European Community directive suggesting they should be mandatory. The proposal will be put out to consultation shortly and it would seem a good opportunity to sound a view on trailer lights as well.

#### Road test: Fiat Strada

The small front-wheel drive hatchback market is becoming increasingly crowded and difficult to

apprise. The Strada's rivals already include the Talbot Horizon, Volkswagen Golf, Renault 14, Colt 1400 from Japan and the latest Opel Kadett, soon to appear with a Vauxhall badge on the Astra. There is also the Lancia Delta, from Fiat's own stable and, using the Strada's engines, and, to come in the autumn, the Ford Escort replacement.

It is a baffling choice for the customer, particularly as all these cars (I cannot yet speak for the Ford) have considerable merits and no one is obviously superior to the rest. The balance of advantage is very fine and in the end the decision will probably have to be made on taste or prejudice.

The Strada strikes me as a very competent car which does most things adequately but has no outstanding features; it therefore lacks a little in character. Fiat models have traditionally been noted for the sort of monotonous, found in abundance in Italy, who likes to drive hard and values performance and handling over comfort and refinement. The Strada is more of a compromise, but a not unsuccessful one.

For example, that throaty engine roar that still characterizes the more sporting Fiats has been virtually eliminated and the Strada's unit is noticeably smooth and generally quiet. With the car's aerodynamic wedge shape minimizing wind noise, it is as enjoyable to cruise on the motorway as to drive in town. Again, the ride is softer than on some previous Fiats, thanks to longer travel on the all-independent suspension, though it

does not come up to the standard of the best French cars.

These improvements have not been achieved at the expense of established Fiat virtues of performance and handling. The Strada comes in two engine sizes, 1300 and 1500, aluminium headed overhead camshaft units, which both give lively acceleration for their class. The 1500, which I have been driving, is particularly nippy, reaching 60 mph from rest in about 13 seconds and with a claimed maximum speed of 99 mph. There is good flexibility, except that it is usually necessary to drop down from top fifth (a five-speed box is standard on this model) when overtaking.

The softer suspension means that handling is less crisp but Fiat buffs will not have much to complain about. The car corners with little roll and controllable understeer and if the tyres squeal under hard cornering, they provide excellent grip. The steering, heavy at low speed, lightens once the car gets on the move and gives an accurate response. The gearchanges could be smoother.

Even using the fifth gear I did not exceed 21 mph on the open road, while in town I dropped to 25 mph, both figures being rather below average for the size of car.

People who have been put off Italian cars by their curious driving position will be interested to know that the Strada does not require its driver to be built like gorillas with very long arms and short legs. Leg room is good, back and front though tall rear passengers may have to climb a shade to avoid brushing the roof. An already generous boot (the spare wheel is housed under the bonnet) can be greatly extended

by folding the back seats forward, individually if required. The heater takes time to work effectively and it cannot be combined with face-level fresh air, so the choice is between a stuffy car or a cold one.

The Strada offers three- and five-door bodyshells, is well equipped and competitively priced at from £3,358 to £4,198.

### Luxury Alpine

Talbot (formerly Chrysler) has this week announced an additional model in its Alpine medium hatchback range, the 1600 SX, which has a new 1592 cc engine and an impressive list of standard items, including automatic transmission, power steering, electrically operated front window, electric door and central lock. The car is also fitted with a computer programmed in the Horizon model, which shows the time and distance of the journey, the fuel consumed, the average rate of consumption and the average speed. The price is £6,495.

The SX, and the existing 1442 and 1300 Alpines, have a smoother front end, partly to improve appearance but also to reduce aerodynamic drag and help fuel consumption. The 1300 is 5 mpg more economical at a steady 56 mph, according to Government figures, while the 1442 gains a useful 2 mpg in town driving.

A saloon version of the Alpine will be launched in the summer.

Peter Waymark

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PERSONAL CHOICE

Frederica von Stade, the American opera singer, in the timed portrait *Call Me Flicka* (BBC 2, 8.00)

Three things conspire to make Frederica von Stade, the American mezzo-soprano, an ideal subject for a television feature. She has a magnificent voice. She is a lovely woman. And, when she talks about her calling, she does it with an intelligence that is refreshingly laced with a sense of fun. All three of these gifts are fully exploited in Herbert Chappell's profile *Call Me Flicka*. (BBC 2, 8.00), a timely example of programme scheduling that has been opened up by the recent success of *Miss von Stade* at the Royal Opera House, Covent Garden, on Monday night in Massenet's Werther, the Houston Grand Opera production of which is generously quoted from in Mr Chappell's film. As well as the Massenet, we hear arias from The Marriage of Figaro (with the soprano as an al fresco, ambling Cherubino), the Barber of Seville and—in a chanteuse's song from the Auvergne, which I have never heard better sung. Sir Geraint Evans puts his imprimatur on the film and Miss von Stade's talents by supplying the narration.

An Eye for a Bird, the title of tonight's film in the *Walla* series (BBC 2, 7.30) sounds a bit like a cruel joke. The man it is about, the renowned bird photographer Eric Hosking, has only one optic: he lost the other when a tawny owl attacked him in 1937. But Mr Hosking is not the sort of man to let a little set-back like that defeat him, and we must assume that he carries his sanction. "In photography, you only use one eye, so it saves me closing the other one", he philosophises. Tonight, Angela Rippon watches Mr Hosking at work, on the mudflats of the Wirral peninsula.

The Hi-Fi Theatre presentation of The Devils (Radio 4, 3.02, with a repeat next Monday at 7.45) is not a radio adaptation of the grotesquely overdone Ken Russell film version in which Oliver Reed, as the sensualist priest, went spectacularly over the top, but the John Whiting stage play, based in turn on the Huxley book. Today's Father Grandier is Michael Bryant, who can be trusted to keep a firm grip both on himself and the role, and Sarah Badel plays the nun who brings about his own fall. She was played, eye-poppingly, in the film by Vanessa Redgrave. Martin Jenkins directs today's play.

HAT THE SYMBOLS MEAN: (STEREO); (BLACK AND WHITE); (REPEAT).

# Broadcasting Guide

Edited by Peter Davall

## TELEVISION

### BBC 1

9.05 am For Schools: Colleges: Treppenlauf: Deutschland; 9.25 Adlette (sprints); 9.52 Look and Read; 10.15 Maths-in-a-Box (Strange Visitor); 11.10 1035 Going to Work; 11.00 Hya o Fryd (The Fox); 11.25 You and Me: For very young children, I Want to Help (r); 11.40 For Schools: Colleges: Every Day Maths; 12.00 Your Own Business: Close down at 12.30; 12.45 News and weather.

1.00 Pebble Mill at One: Ian Lyon praises the holiday possibilities offered by Scarborough, and Peter Seabrook is hard at work in the Pebble Mill garden.

1.45 Mister Men: The story of Mr Chatterbox and Mr Topsy-Turvy (r); 2.00 The Big Picture.

2.15 For Schools: Colleges: Scene (Salvation Army); 2.25 A Good Job with Prospects (British Industry). Close down at 3.00.

3.20 Pobel y Cwm: serial in Welsh.

3.35 Play School: Meera Taneja's Story of India.

4.20 The Nitwits: The story of Earthquake McBash (r).

4.35 Incastry: Michael Troughton concludes his readings from Joan Tarr's thriller *See How They Run*.

### BBC 2

11.00 am Play School: Same as BBC 1, 3.35 pm: Closedown at 4.00.

5.40 pm Flash Gordon Conquers the Universe: Final episode of this old cinema serial. Doom of the Dictator.

6.00 Tex Avery Cartoon: Blitzkrieg.

6.15 For Black 88: Third programme in the new series. John Spence, three times world champion boxer, plays Dennis Taylor, the boxer finalist in the 1973 Commonwealth Games.

6.30 The Country: Angela Rippon visits Eric Hosking, perhaps the world's best photographer of birds. Now 70, he left for the Antarctic immediately after mak-

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